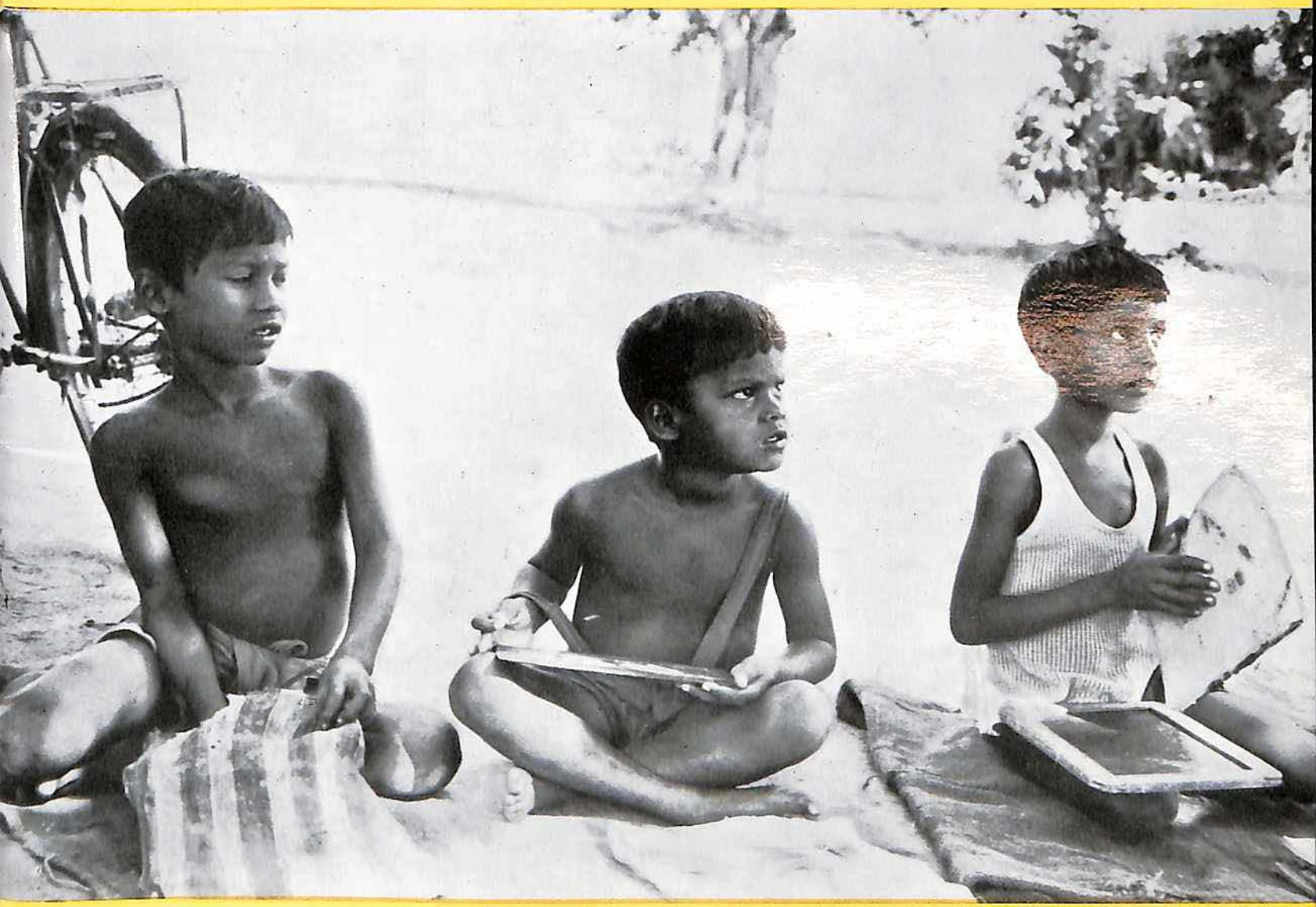
# LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE
## (INDIA)



## ANNUAL REPORT 1987

# Annual Report 1987


## Lutheran World Service (India)

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*With Compliments*

Erling Nielsen,
Director,
Lutheran World Service

**CONTENTS**

TO OUR FRIENDS

PREM UNIT

WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE
TRIDENT (WHAT)

BURDWAN PROJECTS

CALCUTTA PROJECTS

ON-SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS

KULTALI PROJECTS

BIRBHUM PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

EMERGENCY & REHABILITATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

THE EXECUTIVE

## *To Our Friends...*

*For us in LWS India,* **1987** *was a year of further growth and change. The process of learning and sharing through collective introspection and analysis has been most rewarding. It enabled us to strengthen our efforts and give concrete expression to many new ideas, based on our experiences.*

*Efforts to evolve long term measures to address some of the problems confronting the people and LWS, achieved some measure of success, besides throwing up new challenges and opportunities.*

*Among these was the creation of a Women's Desk at the Calcutta Office with representatives in the various field programmes. The purpose of the Women's Desk is to identify and assess the nature of perplexed questions concerning women and to help them participate in the mainstream of development activities, especially in decision making which has been uptil now extremely minimal. Problems are many and we hope that possible solutions will be found by the women themselves, mostly through collective action.*

*Among the other events was initiation of a new development project in the drought prone district of Birbhum in West Bengal. The new project differs considerably from the other development projects, especially in respect of its methodology and strategy. LWS had earlier provided rigbored drinking water tubewells and undertaken some food-for-work schemes as drought relief measures in this district.*

*Training programmes were specially designed for 'Dais' (Traditional Birth Attendants) on whom rural mothers have traditionally depended on for medical care, counsel and assistance at the time of child-birth. These training programmes held in all the project areas attempted to upgrade their skills and improve their knowledge regarding hygienic practices as well as general mother and child health care.*

*We have also started to take a closer look at staff training requirements, as the staff represent the key resource in LWS India's efforts to help bring about qualitative changes in people's lives.*

*It was also of special value for me to have the opportunity of sharing a few months with Mr. Aage Larsen before he left for Denmark with his family, having served LWS India as Director from 1982.*

*The staff of Lutheran World Service India join me in expressing our gratitude to the Governments of West Bengal and Orissa for the co-operation we have enjoyed during 1987. We express our gratitude to our Head Office in Geneva and our donors in different parts of the world. We also express our thanks for the co-operation we have had with so many people in the villages of West Bengal and Orissa and in the slums of Calcutta, in their quest for a better future.*

*February, 1988.*

ERLING NIELSEN

# PREM (PLANNING, RESEARCH, EVALUATION & MONITORING) UNIT

The PREM Unit consists of the Programme Section, which is a part of LWS India management and the PREM Cell, a group of specialists in various disciplines from outside LWS India.

Programme Section oversees the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, acts as a channel for dissemination of information and reports on events. PREM Cell, a consultative and advisory body to the management of LWS India with expertise in development related disciplines, helps to build up capability in areas of planning, monitoring and evaluation among LWS India personnel as well as among the target population.

The year's activities centred around the following:

- Finalization of the E & R Evaluation Report;
- Formulation of strategies for the new Birbhum Projects;
- Assisting Burdwan Projects to draw up strategies for withdrawal;
- Follow up on the study on the landless in the Murshidabad Project and framing guidelines for future action;
- Workshops for DCU staff to analyse and strengthen the role of DCU and improve staff capabilities;
- Introduction and field testing of new reporting formats; and
- Setting up of the Women's Desk and initiation of activities.

The main thrust of the PREM Cell's evaluation of the E & R activities centred around understanding the emergency operations, since for the PREM Cell, this was the first opportunity in eight years to collect first hand information on the E & R Unit and its activities. The participatory evaluation techniques adopted by the PREM Cell, a new experience for the E & R Unit team members, has strengthened the Unit's capabilities in its areas of operation. The report highlighted the importance of preparing a manual on 'Disaster Preparedness' by the Emergency Officer and commended LWS India's unique efforts in alleviating people's misery in times of disaster.

The new Birbhum project differs from earlier LWS India projects to the extent that the methodology and strategy adopted for this project envisage lower monetary and material investment by LWS India. The strategy stresses identification, mobilisation and maximum utilisation of local resources for community development.

People's involvement and participation in the development process right from the project's inception represents the other major facet of the project's strategy and philosophy.

Support of the government agencies at the district and block levels towards implementation of the Birbhum Project has also been very encouraging and augurs well for future collaboration and mobilisation of resources.

The PREM Cell collaborated with Burdwan Projects to formulate strategies in consultation with the people for the kind of structures which should be promoted and strengthened to ensure continuation of the development process by the people themselves, following LWS India's withdrawal from the area.

During periodic visits to the project areas, PREM Cell undertook

the task of helping the project personnel to gain better conceptual understanding and insight into the complexities of the project activities. Evolving suitable techniques for effectively involving the people in the planning, implementation and monitoring of development efforts were major areas of emphasis.

PREM Cell also assisted to strengthen the process of dialogue between projects and the DCU to improve the joint planning process undertaken to deal with problems confronted by the projects.

Study and analysis of the data on the landless families of Murshidabad continued during the year and further guidelines were given to the project for follow-up action.

With the field testing of new reporting formats Programme Section's efforts towards streamlining the information-flow system for the rural programmes have been successful. Data collected in the new formats are being processed and stored in the computer for ultimate use in the new planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (PIME) system. Besides the new formats, plans have been made to establish a 'Review Cell' within the programme section to undertake regular field visits for review and analysis of progress as well as for streamlining the field documentation procedures and removing bottlenecks in the information-flow system.

The PREM Cell reviewed feedback received from the field programmes on the PREM Cell's functions, role and activities. The review has revealed the need for the PREM Cell to devote more time and attention to the problems of the grassroot level workers in the field programmes.

The Women's Desk, set up during the year, endeavours to understand the complex problems and issues related to women and their development. The Desk, with women representatives at the project level, will attempt to assist the projects to evolve meaningful measures to increase women's participation in the development process. Towards this end, two workshops on 'Women and Development' were organised during the year, when women workers and community representatives collectively assessed and analysed the problems facing them. PREM Cell's inputs for holding these two workshops were immensely helpful.

The Programme Section's efforts to prepare and submit a realistic Statement of Needs (SON) were evaluated by the PREM Cell.

During 1987 the PREM Cell consisted of:

Dr. B. R. Patil, Chairman
Sociologist
New Delhi.

Dr. P. Roy
Sociologist
Council For Social Development
New Delhi.

Mr. S. K. Chakraborty
Indian Administrative Service (Retd)
Calcutta.

Dr. A. K. Bhattacharyya
Agronomist
Calcutta.

Dr. K. Rajaratnam
Executive Secretary,
United Evangelical Lutheran
Churches in India,
Madras.

Mr. J. B. Singh
New Delhi.

Mr. Neville Pradhan
Programme Secretary of
LWS India &
Member Secretary.

# WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE TRIDENT (WHAT)

The project began as the Water Resources Project (WRP) which had the limited, but nevertheless important aim of providing clean drinking water within a reasonable distance to the predominantly tribal population in the districts of Purulia and Birbhum in West Bengal and later in the Mayurbhanj district of Orissa.

While participating in this vital activity of providing safe drinking water to the people in a chronically drought-prone area, the severity of the situation made it apparent that a holistic approach was essential to enable the people to counter and overcome the conditions which had caused such deprivation.

The project in it's present form as the Water, Health and Agriculture Trident, (WHAT) became operational in 1983.

The project presently covers 39,000 people in 95 villages spread over 3 blocks namely Jamda and Bijatala in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa and Bandwan in Purulia district of West Bengal.

All the three blocks are drought-prone and located in remote areas as a result of which the people have remained socially as well as economically backward.

The undulating terrain has vast stretches of denuded and degraded land interspersed with rocky outcrops and is well drained by a network of streams which form the numerous watersheds. Although the economy revolves around agriculture and related activities, the majority of the farmers are able to grow only one principal crop, the success of which is dependent on the progressively erratic monsoons.

In years of good rainfall also the advantage is largely lost due to the topography and the low water retention capacity of the soil.

Project WHAT therefore, emphasizes the concept of watershed management which essentially relates to soil and water conservation and attempts to reduce the region's vulnerability to drought through optimum utilisation of water, land and other natural resources. The project's comprehensive approach also takes into account programmes like forestry, pasture development, pisciculture, farm development and various other agro-based activities on an area-saturation basis. It is an integration of technologies within the natural boundaries of a drainage area, for optimum development of natural resources to meet the needs of the people in an integrated and sustained manner.

Efforts are aimed at harmonising the socio-economic activities with the environment in order to bring about a qualitative change in the people's lives.

The project, since it's inception, has increasingly stressed the human factors whereby people are collectively involved in the decision-making process. To achieve this, a consultative and participatory approach in planning, implementation and monitoring has been adopted. These continue to be the underlying principles of Project WHAT and are the guiding factors for spatial planning.

This has led to the formation and growth of people's organizations which represent a fundamental requirement for socio-economic upliftment and equitable sharing of benefits accruing from the development process.

LWS' role in this context has primarily been that of an educator and facilitator. It has supported and complemented the people's efforts by providing certain basic services and resources to accelerate the development process.

*Water:* Emphasis continues to be laid on conservation of rain water to recharge the surface and subsurface aquifers and on the judicious use of this scarce resource.

Reservoirs were constructed to store run-off water from where it is diverted to cultivable land through channels. Various other types of water harvesting structures like tanks, shallow ponds, fallboard structures, weirs and irrigation wells, were also constructed as part of the project's strategy to provide irrigation facilities on the principles of watershed management. With the completion of the infrastructure undertaken during the year, 100 acres benefitting 70 families will be covered under assured irrigation to grow a second crop, while 300 acres belonging to 200 families will have the benefit of protective and supportive irrigation for the main crop. It is expected that after completion of all infrastructure undertaken during

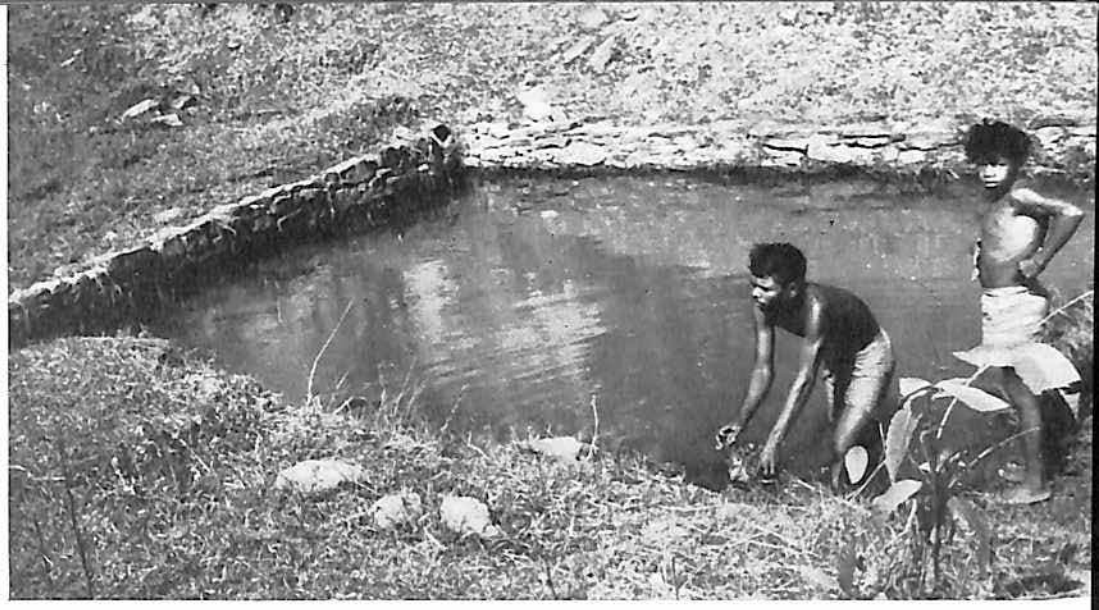
the year, agriculture would be stabilised and productivity enhanced on nearly 1200 acres.

The maintenance cost of shallow ponds and other such low cost infrastructure created to support and protect the principal crop, is at least 46 percent less while economy in the use of water has doubled in comparison to other irrigation infrastructure such as weirs, bore-cum-dug wells and other such high cost technology. These advantages are of crucial importance in the light of the fact that the users and the communities would ultimately be responsible for maintenance and use of the resources created. Furthermore, it also represents a technology which is within the people's reach and can be easily replicated.

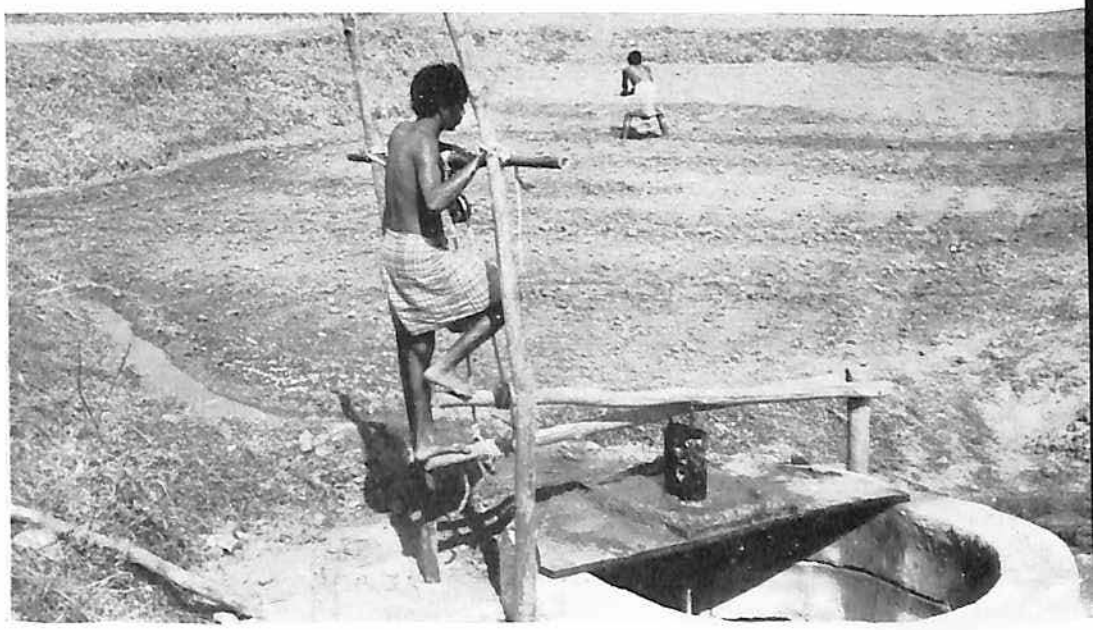
The topographical condition of the area and high intensity of rainfall during the monsoon leads to extensive erosion, particularly of the fertile topsoil. In order to arrest the rapid process of soil erosion which is a major problem in the area, various soil and moisture conservation measures such as field bunding, forestry and gully control measures, to name but a few, were taken up.

Land development measures undertaken during the year covered 77 acres. Social forestry schemes have been undertaken to supply the fuel needs of the people and fodder for their livestock as well as contribute towards restoration of the ecological balance of the area.

Social awareness and economic viability of social forestry was amply demonstrated by a group of seven families in a village which jointly undertook the raising of saplings in a nursery. With a loan from the village fund and under the technical guidance of the project, the group later sold 34,000 saplings at a mar-



*Low cost shallow pond.*



*Indigenous water lifting device*

*Kitchen garden*

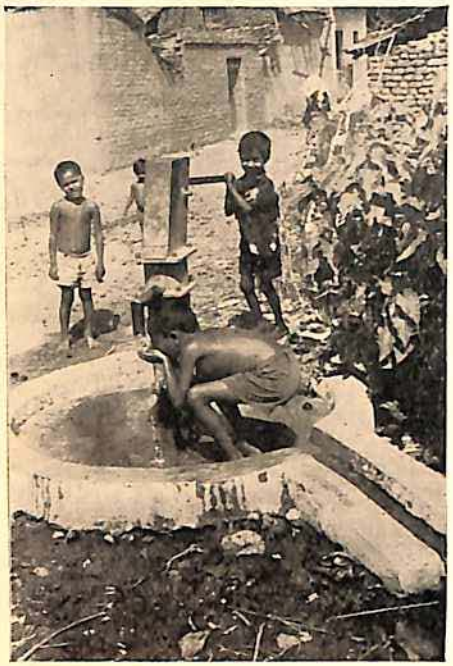
## DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

Safe drinking water remains a distant dream for almost half the country's population. Dire necessity compels people of remote villages and drought affected area to consume murky and contaminated water collected from traditional sources such as rivers, tanks and open wells, making them highly susceptible to water-borne diseases. Consequently water-borne diseases account for 80 percent of India's health problems. Cholera, typhoid fever, guinea worm and intestinal parasites infect millions. While diseases like malaria and filariasis are transmitted by insects breeding in water, typhoid, diarrhoea-dysentery and cholera are transmitted by drinking or washing in contaminated water. About one third of the estimated 5 million deaths every year due to diarrhoea in children below 5 years, occur in India.

Against this back-drop, since its inception in 1977, the Water Resources Project has been concentrating mainly on providing safe drinking water through drilling of rig-bored tubewells. In course of time the area of operation has extended from the district of Purulia to other districts and States.

During 1987, the drilling unit successfully drilled 185 tubewells in three districts of Orissa. Nearly 45 percent of the drinking water tubewells were drilled in Kalahandi district alone, which is one of the worst drought affected area in the entire State.

Possibilities of unsuccessful bores were greatly reduced through geophysical and geo-hydrological studies which were conducted by the Ground Water Investigation Team (GIT) of the LWS. Unlike



earlier years, the drilling crew extended its scope of operation to include handpump installation and platform construction around the handpump. These activities, in the past used to be undertaken by Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) of the State Government.

By the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-90) the entire rural population is to be provided with safe drinking water. In order to supplement the efforts of the government in this regard, it had been decided that voluntary agencies would be encouraged to intensify drinking water schemes. Subsequently, the government set up the Technology Mission on Drinking Water in Villages and Related Water Management. The Mission formed Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) to function as instruments for provision of science and technology inputs to suit the Mission's approach. Each group was entrusted with a specific function. The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology

ginal profit to three neighbouring communities. The group, for its efforts was rewarded with a net profit of over Rs. 7,000/-.

Concentrating on the use of indigenous technology, 10 low cost water lifting devices were installed in Bandwan block of Purulia district. At the same time where needs and technology demanded otherwise, diesel operated water pumps were made available on a cluster compact area basis.

Use of such mechanical devices not only contributes to technological advancement of the rural milieu but also promotes and encourages group formations and sharing of resources for mutual benefit.

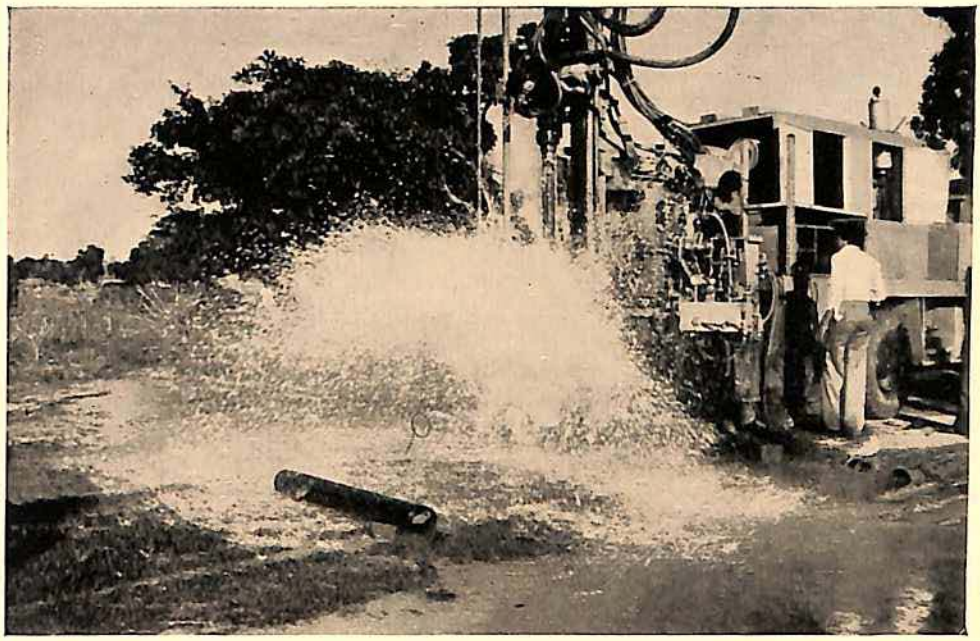
*Agriculture:* In the absence of proper irrigation facilities, agriculture, which is the main occupation of the people, is chiefly dependent on the monsoons. Traditional agricultural practices coupled with lack of capital for inputs and the prevailing social conditions represent the greatest obstacles to the adoption of improved methods of agriculture. Despite being unsuitable for paddy cultivation, high and medium lands are persistently cultivated by small and marginal farmers, a practice which leads to very poor yields and thereby negative incomes. Less water-intensive crops such as maize, groundnut, arahar, blackgram and sweet potato have been introduced through practical demonstrations carried out by the people under the guidance of the field staff. Interestingly, patches of hitherto barren land have also been successfully brought under cultivation by the people with advice and help from the project. People's response to these activities has been encouraging and on occasion overwhelming. Success of these efforts has had a ripple effect, and many more people are

now eager to take to the new crops and to accept the idea of multi-cropping. Different varieties of pulses, lentils and oilseeds like mustard which currently command a good market price are also being sown with enthusiasm. The excellent results obtained from the demonstration plots have been a key factor in motivating farmers to accept changes in practices including adoption of new cropping patterns. The Government Agriculture Department also participated in this very important activity by providing seeds and fertilisers for 34 acres out of the 88 acres covered under demonstration during the year.

Under the agricultural assistance programme, seeds, fertilisers and pesticides were provided by the project to 2,429 farmers for cultivating 1,649 acres. Appropriate and improved agricultural tools and equipment have been provided to small and marginal farmers who apart from using these on their own fields, hire them out to others at nominal charge to supplement their meagre earnings.

Forty farmers availed themselves of the services of soil testing facilities with the project staff's help. This service enabled the farmers to take necessary corrective measures for improving the quality of their agricultural land and subsequently to increase the crop yields.

Mixed and inter-cropping practices were encouraged and their soil and moisture conservation effects were demonstrated. Kitchen gardens promoted in the earlier years remain highly popular among housewives and other village women. They have realised the potential of kitchen gardens for enriching daily diets and eradicating nutritional deficiencies among children as well as for augmenting family in-



*Rig in operation*

(CAPART) the nodal agency and convenor for TAG-II of the Mission, responsible for identification and development of traditional drinking water sources and National Association of Water Resources Development Agencies, consultants to CAPART requested LWS to participate in implementing the project in Bankura district of West Bengal.

After submission of a detailed report of its finding in Bankura with regard to identification and development of traditional sources of water and its subsequent acceptance by the Government of India, LWS has commenced its activity of development of traditional sources of drinking water and ensuring that adequate drinking water of acceptable quality is available.

An important facet of the Bankura programme has been educating and training women and youth in water management techniques. During the year, 165 women and youth were trained. These training programmes emphasised the role of safe water for better health and covered subjects like prevention and management of water-borne diseases.

In addition to disinfection of traditional sources, the Bankura project plans to undertake re-juvenation of defunct tubewells, revitalisation of open wells, construction of platforms around the wells and development of low cost technologies that are affordable and adaptable.

Filtered water is safe but the cost of filters are much beyond the means of the poor villagers. The development of low cost filters through the application of appropriate technology is indeed a step in the right direction. The Bankura project has successfully developed such a low cost filter, which can be easily manufactured at the village level with locally available resources.

Collaboration, the hallmark of LWS drinking water supply programme, acquired a new dimension in Bankura Project where

Government bore the entire programme cost. Participation by Government organisations, voluntary agencies and the people, represent a major factor for the exceptional performance. Under the re-juvenation programme in Purulia, UNICEF supplied India Mark II handpumps while the PHED supplied pipes and other equipments. People's contribution continued to be in the form of free labour for building approach roads, provision of water for flushing of borewells and making available temporary shelter for the drilling team. In Orissa, the State Government bore 50 percent of the drilling cost in Kalahandi and Mayurbhanj and 30 percent of the cost in Ganjam.

While attention remains on catering to the drinking water needs of the people in remote villages and drought affected areas, the importance of developing traditional sources for achieving the desired goals, has been recognised. New stress is being laid on measures that will assist in decreasing the level of contamination in water and on re-juvenation and revitalization of derelict infrastructure. Attempts have been made, wherever possible, to seek low cost solutions for alleviating the problem of unsafe water. At the same time, where needs and technology demanded otherwise, tubewells were made available for provision of safe drinking water.

DRILLING, TUBEWELL INSTALLATION AND PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION:

| Area | Drinking Water Wells | Level of Participation (in percent) Govt. | People | Others | LWS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MAYURBHANJ | 53 | 50.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 45.0 |
| GANJAM | 49 | 30.0 | 2.0 | — | 68.0 |
| KALAHANDI | 83 | 50.0 | 2.0 | — | 48.0 |

RE-JUVENATION PROGRAMME

| Area | Tubewells | Level of Participation (in percent) Government | Others | LWS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PURULIA | 159 | 28.0 | 37.0 | 35.0 |

comes. Seeds, seedlings and fertilisers were provided by the project to 216 families in 21 hamlets in Mayurbhanj district. In Bandwan, 1641 saplings of different fruit plants were distributed to 357 farmers for planting on homestead plots.

*Other Economic Measures:* Since agriculture represents a seasonal occupation for most, a majority of the people in the project area have to depend on various other avenues of supplementary income for their survival. Considering the low and uncertain returns from agriculture and the possibility of raising only a single crop, most able-bodied men and sometimes even whole families are forced to leave their villages for several months in a year in search of work. This disrupts family life and has on occasion led to broken families. To reverse this trend, it is necessary to generate subsidiary sources of gainful employment within the community itself.

Lack of proper skills, resources and technology represent major contributory factors for underdevelopment of the people in the programme area. Hence, the project's efforts to develop people's skills as well as impart education to teach people how to tap and make optimum use of the local resources are extremely important factors.

Against this backdrop, economically viable and feasible income-generating schemes of varied nature such as goat rearing, duck farming, grain and 'mohua' banks, weaving, petty business, cottage industries and various types of village crafts are promoted to help people generate additional income for meeting the basic necessities of life. Consequently, 397 families in Mayurbhanj and 152 families in Purulia were assisted to start individual as well as collective ventures. Establishment of

grain banks, to mitigate the severity of the food crisis during lean periods and as a means of demonstrating benefits of group action, proved extremely successful. An encouraging feature of this activity was that women took an increasingly important part in managing some of these grain and mohua banks. By the end of the year, there were 10 grain banks and 7 mahua banks in the project areas. LWS's efforts in providing viable alternatives have created a greater awareness among the people and acted as a strong impetus for improving their economy and lives.

*Education and Training:* The education programme is integrated with other development activities to sustain the interest of the learners beyond acquisition of basic literacy skills. Education is viewed as a means by which people develop greater awareness and acquire knowledge which they can use to address and solve problems that beset them in their day-to-day lives. The training programmes are designed to help people and staff acquire and develop special skills, expertise and knowledge to become more effective functionally. During the year, the 24 TWS organised, covered a wide range of subjects such as cottage industries and village crafts, agriculture and social forestry, community health, animal husbandry, entrepreneurship, watershed management, people's organisations and village funds and accounting procedures in which 1461 people participated.

In Mayurbhanj, 41 non-formal education centres with a strength of 699 students and 17 centres with a student strength of 277 in Purulia imparted functional literacy. Discussion and information sharing among the project staff, the teachers, students as well as village committee

members and others has enhanced the effectiveness of these centres.

The three community centres, built during the year, serve as a meeting place for the people and help foster the community spirit, so vital for sustained progress. These centres also facilitated other organised activities like sports and cultural programmes.

*Community Health:* Ante-natal and post-natal care, immunization against preventable diseases as well as nutrition and health education represent the major components of the project's primary health care activities.

The community health programme focusses on education of the womenfolk especially the mothers as it is they who occupy the central position in the matrix of any community-based health programme. Thus, group and mass meetings and home visits were organised to build greater awareness and consciousness among the womenfolk about health and related matters. Effective use of media like flash cards, flip charts, slides, video films and puppetry further enhanced the process of health education.

Training on health and health related matters organised for the mothers evoked spontaneous and encouraging response. Immunization is an extremely vital factor for reducing infant mortality and for safeguarding expectant mothers and their unborn children against a whole range of diseases and disabilities. Under the immunization programme, which is carried out in the intensive health care villages, children under six and expectant mothers are administered vaccines and vitamins by the health staff.

It is evident that communities, in particular the womenfolk, have realised the importance of the family's health needs especially those

of mothers and children. In Bandwan block of Purulia district, women in nine villages have formed organisations. While mother and child welfare represents the primary objective of these 'mahila samities' (women's organisations), keen interest has also been evinced in starting economic activities and capital formation through monthly subscriptions. Token money accumulated over the years in the community health fund represents the initial capital for many of these groups.

With a view to develop and strengthen local resources, training for the local "dais" (traditional birth attendants) was organised when 15 dais received orientation and training in various aspects of childbirth and ante-natal and post-natal care. Such training is expected to help eradicate superstitions and taboos as well as equip the dais with skills to reduce the high risks faced by mothers and their new-born children.

Orientation and training programmes in various aspects of community health were also organised for the staff and people including village committee members, the NFE teachers, opinion leaders and other interested members of the communities.

The intensive health care activities covered approximately 7400 people in 20 villages while curative services were rendered to additional 4000 people from the peripheral villages.

The community health programme continues to receive active collaboration of the government's health department, which supplies vaccines as well as nutritional supplements and family welfare aids free of cost.

*People's Organisations:* The project continued to make concerted efforts to increase people's involvement and participation in the development process through various forums of collective functioning. At the same time efforts were directed to further strengthen the existing structures. People have now well understood and accepted the complexities of the development process and the benefits of organised group action and collective functioning.

Participation of women, youth and other members of the communities has also greatly increased. This has not only added a new dimension to the local self-supporting structures but also infused more dynamism in the development process. Keen interest evinced by women in development activities has led to the emergence of nine groups in Bandwan. Besides concentrating on mother and child health care, these nine groups are also exploring new avenues of gainful employment in order to increase family incomes.

Similarly, numerous youth clubs have emerged over the years. These groups of young people are determined to eradicate traditional superstitions and other social taboos prevailing in the communities through role plays, dramas, sports and other such cultural activities.

Functional and common interest groups formed around viable economic activities have also flourished. Where people have often failed as individuals, these groups have succeeded, especially in areas of co-operative economic ventures. One hundred and thirty eight such groups functioning in the project area have succeeded in generating their own capital.

Village committees have also assumed greater importance. These representative bodies have succeeded in mobilising the communities to participate in the decision making process. Planning, implementation and monitoring of community as well as group and individual efforts continue to be one of their major tasks.

*Functional literacy is imparted through non-formal education.*

Out of the 87 village committees currently functioning in the operational area, 67 have been reconstituted during the year. People's own inherent power translated into constructive and creative action has resulted in the elimination of the inefficient bodies These reconstituted bodies will infuse more dynamism and help to concretise the ambitions and aspirations of the people.

The phenomenal growth in the number of people's organisations and increase in organised group activities are strong indications of the people's faith and confidence in the dynamics of co-operation.

To add more meaning and purpose to local level planning, building up of community capital continued to receive greater importance. With the concept of community capital having gained further ground during the year, village revolving funds achieved considerable growth in terms of deposits as well as loan disbursal. Recycling of the community fund has not only accelerated the development process but has also decreased the people's dependence on the moneylenders and other local exploitative forces.

Creation of their own community banks has given birth to a new confidence among the people who now have easy access to capital.

By the end of the year, the accumulated fund position registered an amount of over Rs. 10,00,000/- while approximately Rs. 2,80,000/- represented the recycled amount.

WATER

| Item | IRRIGATION | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unit Completed | | Acres Covered | | Families Benefited | | Unit in Progress | |
| | M | P | M | P | M | P | M | P |
| Check & diversion weir | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | 2 |
| Construction of drain & canal excavation | – | – | – | – | – | – | 6 | – |
| Well | 13 | 22 | 21 | 36 | 38 | 126 | 10 | 1 |
| Lift irrigation system | – | 10 | – | 10 | – | 31 | 1 | – |
| Shallow ponds | 4 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 30 | 2 | – |
| Series of checks | 2 | – | 32 | – | 22 | – | – | – |
| Tanks/fallboard structures | 4 | 7 | 175 | 64 | 134 | 112 | 8 | 6 |

M – Mayurbhanj
P – Purulia

AGRICULTURE

| Activities | MAYURBHANJ | | PURULIA | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Crop Area (in acres) | Farmers covered | Crop Area (in acres) | Farmers covered |
| Assistance—seeds/fertiliser | 1415 | 1207 | 160 | 635 |
| Crop protection | 27 | 70 | 47 | 517 |
| Demonstration | 25 | 103 | 29 | 94 |

KITCHEN GARDEN

| Area | Type of crops | Number of seedlings | Families benefited |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayurbhanj | Vegetables | 18917 | 216 |

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY FORESTRY

| Area | Area (in acres) | People benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Mayurbhanj | 15 | 28 |
| Purulia | 7 | 91 |

HORTICULTURE

| Area | Plants (nos.) | Families benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Purulia | 1641 | 357 |

LAND DEVELOPMENT/SOIL MANAGEMENT

| Area | Acres | Families benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Mayurbhanj | 79 | 62 |
| Purulia | 66 | 17 |

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

| Area | Number of centres | Student strength |
|---|---|---|
| Mayurbhanj | 41 | 699 |
| Purulia | 17 | 277 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOP, SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 89 | 362 |
| Animal husbandry | 2 | 2 |
| Audio visual aids | 8 | 34 |
| Bee-keeping | 5 | 22 |
| Community health | 25 | 114 |
| Community organisation | 15 | 72 |
| Role of traditional birth attendants in mother and child health care | – | 15 |
| Development orientation | 6 | 10 |
| Fish farming | 1 | – |
| Immunisation | 3 | – |
| Puffed rice processing | 3 | 15 |
| Irrigation systems | 2 | 15 |
| Sal leaf plate making | – | 11 |
| Mushroom cultivation | 18 | 6 |
| New reporting system | 3 | – |
| Non-formal education | 18 | 100 |
| Participatory training methods | 2 | – |
| Pisciculture | 9 | 16 |
| Poultry | 7 | – |
| Project appraisal and funding | 1 | – |
| Pump maintenance | 7 | 37 |
| Rural functional literacy | – | 6 |
| Social forestry | 3 | 7 |
| Silk worm rearing | – | 5 |
| Soap making | 12 | 144 |
| Traditional birth control methods | 4 | 3 |
| Village crafts | 5 | 32 |
| Village fund accounting | 104 | 401 |
| Watershed planning & management | 3 | – |
| Women and development | 6 | 2 |
| Youth organisations | 1 | 30 |

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

| Type | Unit | Families benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Animal husbandry | 577 | 125 |
| Bee-keeping | 11 | 11 |
| Pisciculture | 3 | 21 |
| Lac cultivation | 2 | 6 |
| Silk worm rearing | 525 dfl | 4 |
| Mushroom cultivation | 2 | 9 |
| Sal leaf plate making | 1 | 5 |
| Broom making | 1 | 3 |
| Paddy husking | 1 | 12 |
| Petty trades | 18 | 40 |
| Weaving | 4 | 39 |
| Grain bank | 10 | 158 |
| 'Mahua' bank | 7 | 61 |
| Cow-pea bank | 1 | 20 |

# BURDWAN PROJECTS

Enhancing people's ability to collectively plan, implement and monitor the various activities represented one of the most vital functions of the project during 1987. Stress was laid on mobilisation of resources, building up and sustaining the growth of community funds, strengthening and stabilising the community organisations and instilling in the people the confidence that they are capable of managing their own affairs.

Fast expanding groups, embracing an ever-increasing number of people, not only debate and discuss the many problems of the community and the individuals composing it, but also devise competent ways of solving these, often under extremely adverse conditions. And this is achieved with only marginal assistance from LWS by way of technical and managerial assistance.

A noteworthy feature of this resurgence of energy and self-confidence is the concern it has generated for the less fortunates in the community. Without exception all the communities have made sincere efforts to extend benefits to the poorest among them such as the landless labourer, marginal farmer, widows and deserted women with children to take care of as well as the old and the infirm.

Evidence of this new-found energy and initiative was provided by a group of 26 marginal farmers and landless labourers in one of the villages who came together to reclaim four acres of arable land, some of them owned but which, for lack of capital and will to cultivate had lain fallow for a number of years. By their own labour the group levelled the ground, pooled their limited resources and planted potato on half an acre, as an experiment.

Their labour and initiative brought them substantial returns which was equitably shared out. Encouraged by this, their successful first attempt at self-help, they have decided to reclaim the rest of the land and grow other vegetables along with potatoes, since vegetables also have a good market. The group has started to explore the possibility of taking on lease other pieces of fallow land to extend the operation and also include more people in the effort.

Seeing the success of this venture, 15 more people of the village also jointly undertook cultivation of 4.5 acres of land they owned among themselves, and which none of them could have farmed profitably. Their venture has also met with similar success as that of the former group.

As news of these successes spread, people from within as well as outside the project area visited the village to see for themselves and meet the group members as well as LWS staff. Besides enquiring about the type and variety of seeds and fertiliser doses, interestingly many were curious to learn about the mechanics of group formation and collective functioning.

The faith in the power of collective action and the spirit of sharing and caring exhibited by these two groups represent qualities, which are growing among the members of the community at large. The communities continued to analyse their own socio-economic conditions and explore ways and means to better their lot. The situation of the under-privileged among them received greater attention.

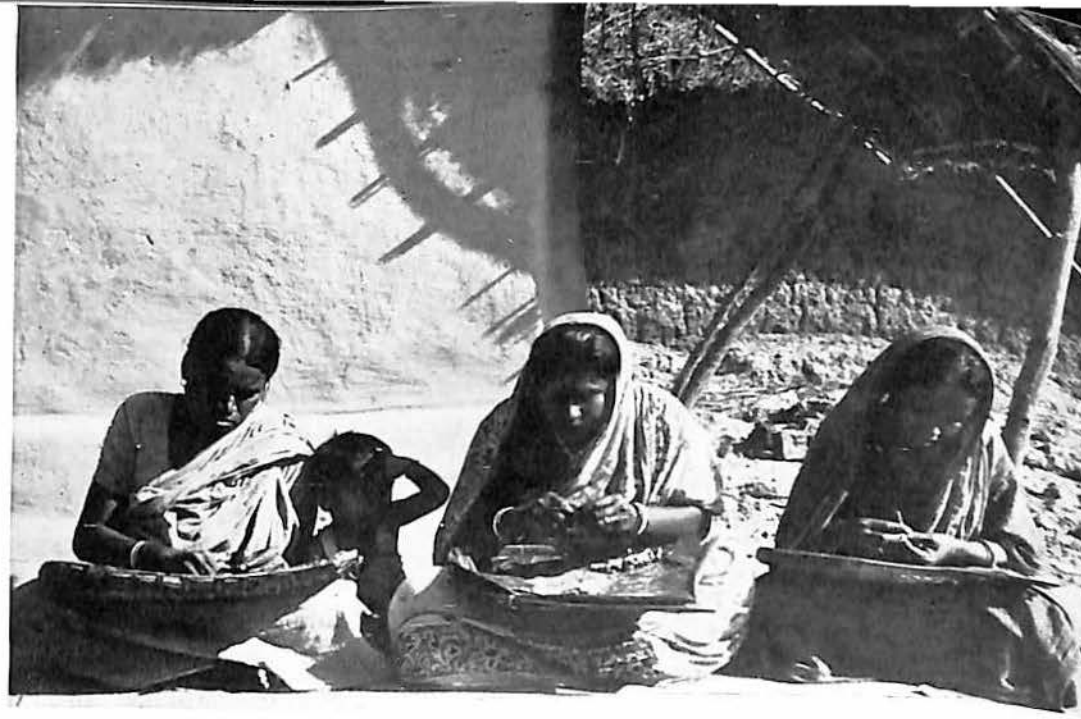
Another area of marked emphasis has been the strengthening of community organisations. The keen interest displayed by the community particularly the youth, in the role and functions of representative bodies has resulted in beneficial

changes in these bodies. Individualistic tendencies are being replaced by concensus born of the process of collective decision making.

From the collective analytical process undertaken by village communities have germinated the concept of zonal representative bodies for groups of neighbouring villages. It is being realised that such a body will be an efficient forum for deciding on the equitable distribution of scarce resources and on general issues and common problems pertinent to all villages in the zone. Emergence of such zonal representative bodies has helped effective coordination and monitoring of area development activities.

From the debates and discussions in the village communities, there have emerged work opportunities for women, which have been of particular help to widows and women deserted by their husbands. Groups of these women now make paper bags, in demand by grocers' shops and 'bidi', a local cigarette made with leaves and locally cured tobacco. Functional groups of many such women, often accompanied by the girls of the village, can be seen working at these trades in the verandahs of schools and community centres.

Demand for vegetables has further increased the popularity of kitchen gardens among housewives. Initially kitchen gardens were grown by the women to provide better nutrition to their families, particularly the children. Now these gardens bring in money by sale of the surplus produce. This addition to the family income is most welcome and it has also enhanced the prestige and social standing of women in the community. During the year 1289 families received seeds and seedlings for kitchen gardening.



*New opportunities for women.*

A more important and positive decision has been taken by the communities in recognising the crucial role of women in development. Women have been formally inducted into village committees, the ultimate representative decision making bodies in the villages. This is a remarkable step in a social climate which had for centuries decreed that women's place was definitely in the house.

The community's increasing concern for the plight of the landless and marginal farmers is evident from the greater number of schemes formulated by the community for these segments of the population. Community planning has helped in the formulation of technically, financially and socially viable schemes. Group oriented economic schemes benefiting larger numbers have received importance. For instance, small groups of landless families have been organised into "custom service" groups. These groups are equipped with sets of pedal threshers, sprayers and similar agricultural implements. By hiring out their services to local farmers, the group members have increased their incomes. Moreover, farmers availing the services of these groups and their equipment are thus assured of improved agricultural technology at lower costs. This has also helped to increase productivity. During 1987, four groups of landless families were provided such equipment. Likewise, several small and marginal farmers were given pairs of bullocks to be used as draught animals. This again not only assisted the recipients who, in the past, had had to hire these bullocks from rich landlords at exorbitant rates, but also enabled other similar groups of farmers to hire these at affordable prices.

Another step which has high potential to generate additional income for a large number of people is the distribution of the brown campbell variety of duck. This dual purpose (meat & egg) bird, which comes into lay in four months and lays upwards of three hundred large eggs per annum, is expected not only to generate extra income for a growing number of people, but also to supplement the diet, particularly of vulnerable groups like the children and expectant and nursing mothers.

A tribal farmer who was given 150 of these birds has reared these to the

laying stage, assisted by mash supplied under a government sponsored scheme. The community has leased him a tank which was re-excavated with LWS assistance. The lease, at Rs. 50/- a year for 10 years, also carries the condition that the farmer must sell the eggs to others in the area who wish to hatch these. The beneficiary plans to do composite fish and duck farming in the tank.

During the year, 205 landless families and marginal farmer families have received material inputs to undertake similar and other economic ventures such as vegetable vending, grocery and cycle repair.

Under the social forestry-cum-orchard programme, 53 families were assisted to plant assorted forest saplings on 23.5 acres and fruit trees on 20.5 acres. In this collaborative venture, the government transferred the ownership of hitherto barren uplands to these families. The panchayat — local self-governing body — provided the cost of manure and bore the expense of protecting the plants against stray cattle. The people undertook land preparation and planting while LWS participated by providing additional inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. In Burdwan district which presently has only 3 percent of its total area under forest against the recommended 30 percent, social forestry is an extremely vital activity which not only provides fuel and fodder but also helps arrest and reverse the degeneration of the soil and ecological system.

Erratic monsoons which have become a recurring feature in recent years, adversely affected agriculture, which is the mainstay of the economy of the district in 1987 also. Of the total arable area of 1,445 acres in the project villages, only 279 acres are irrigated, including the 87 acres added this year. The delayed monsoons meant that the farmers could not transplant in time, and the seedlings deteriorated. Adopting corrective measures under LWS guidance, the loss was restricted to a great extent. However the bright side of the calamity was the practical demonstration to the farmer that better agricultural practices can, to a great measure, counteract what had hitherto been accepted as an inevitable loss.

Use of improved varieties of seed, application of balanced doses of fertilisers based on soil test, need-based application of pesticides, training prior to the main cropping seasons and guidance by LWS field personnel have ushered in visible changes in the agricultural practices. Crop yields have registered substantial increases. Twelve demonstrations on cultivation of new crops were organised on farmers' plots as education. As a result, farmers now atempt double and triple as well as inter and mixed cropping practices on land where irrigation is available. Vegetable cultivation as well as farming of crops such as peanuts, cowpea, red gram etc. which can grow successfully under moisture stress is also gaining popularity. During the year, LWS extended material assistance in the form of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to 1161 farmers for cultivating 659 acres in 39 hamlets.

Another notable feature in the agricultural sphere is that many members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities whose farming methods had been primitive before, were persuaded and assisted to adopt improved practices as well as to grow new crops including vegetables and mustard. This latter is now in great demand as an edible oilseed, of which there is an acute countrywide shortage. As mustard is not a water-intensive crop, with improved seeds and advice on husbandry, many of these people have grown bumper crops, which gives the countryside a bright yellow hue during the mellow winter months.

An important 'social' benefit of the success in farming by these communities is that members of neighbouring communities who had shunned them before, now freely and eagerly seek their advice on improved methods of farming.

In this drought prone area, creation of assured sources of irrigation is of supreme importance. During

the year, three shallow tubewells, two irrigation channels and a submersible culvert-cum-check weir have been built to bring 87 acres of land under assured irrigation. This will enable the 156 families who have benefited from these activities to undertake multiple cropping. The increase in irrigation resources and consequent increase in cropping intensity has generated enthusiasm among many small and marginal farmers and share croppers to explore ways and means of maximising the benefits from these facilities. Thirty four such farmers have formed four groups to purchase pump sets with LWS assistance, for collective use.

Six tubewells were sunk, to provide clean drinking water within easy reach to 45 families in six villages. Thirty six defective tubewells were also repaired. These provide clean drinking water to 315 families, spread over 21 villages. Four wells were also dug, to provide drinking water to 90 families in four villages. Eight wells were fitted with hand pumps and had covers installed to ensure cleanliness and safety of the children.

The roof is being put over one of the rooms of a primary school, in which 180 children, including 75 girls, all of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities from four surrounding villages study.

Community health activities stressed preventive and promotive aspects of health care. Ante-natal and post—natal care for mothers, immunization of and prevention of malnutrition among childen as well as health education activities were undertaken all over the project area, particularly, in 10 intensive villages, covering 2200 families. Several health orientation training programmes were organised for increasing the awareness of the assisted population. Eleven traditional birth attendants have been trained and provided with kits. Curative services have also been provided wherever necessary. Cases for further treatment or hospitalisation were referred to community health centres run by the Government.

Various training programmes, workshops and seminars were organised to impart vocational skills as well as to increase awareness of health and sanitation. Three hundred and twenty eight members of the target population participated in 15 such programmes on different subjects such as improved agricultural practices, sal-leaf-plate making, hand pump repairing, pump set maintenance and health care.

Twenty-five non-formal education (NFE) centres for men and two for women are functioning in the programme area. These centres have made 451 people, including 89 women, literate. These NFE centres also play a crucial role in organising people and spreading social awareness. Some of these centres have started rural libraries which have been provided with sets of books in simple language on different disciplines for the benefit of the neo-literates. This continuing support to the neo-literates is important to sustain their interest in education. For example, a student from one of the centres, a cowherd, is in high school now and hopes to do college.

There are 13 youth clubs and six drama groups in as many villages. These youth groups are in the vanguard of ushering in change in their communities. The drama groups write and enact plays with social themes. These plays are effective in getting relevant social messages across to simple, unlettered rural audiences, and are immensely popular with audiences of all ages.

Communities continued the effort to mitigate the suffering of the impoverished particularly the landless and marginal farmer families, who were compelled to borrow from money lenders for subsistence during the lean period. A grain bank was added to the existing 17 in the target area. The new bank which will serve a mixed population

*Neo literates enjoy the facilities of rural libraries.*

of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities. was established entirely by the voluntary contribution of the user group. LWS assisted another existing bank, which had collected 800 kg of grain through voluntary contribution, with 1800 kg., the total being sufficient to tide the community over all vagaries of the weather. The other banks have also grown steadily, rousing interest in the system in the peripheral villages.

Two low cost grain storage structures have been built to serve two villages inhabited by members of the scheduled tribes community. LWS provided the design and bore half the cost of construction, the other half being borne by the beneficiaries themselves.

All the 42 villages in the project area have their own community funds which are steadily growing. Training and workshops on book-keeping and accountancy for the treasurers and accountants of each village committee by the project personnel, with support from DCU and the Finance Department of LWS have helped them to become conscious about the importance of maintaining proper and correct accounts of the community funds. These funds will be the community's main source for meeting economic as well as the occasional but inevitable social needs. Recognising the importance of this, the village committees have taken a keen interest in the building up and strengthening of community funds. Community funds are reinvested and recycled regularly for the benefit of the community in general, particularly to assist the vulnerable groups in the community. For instance, during this year the community banks met more than 66 percent of the cost of fertilisers urgently needed by the marginal farmers and share croppers for the summer paddy crop. By the end of the year, the total amount in the village revolving funds was Rs. 1,76,000 of which, Rs. 36,500 had been recycled. These funds provide the communities a stable foundation for continuity and future prosperity especially in view of LWS's plans to phase out operations from the area within the next few years.

To ensure a smooth and effective phasing out operation and to enhance the process of transferring responsibilities to the people and their representative bodies, a withdrawal strategy is being designed and formulated in close consultation with the communities. The strategy envisages the strengthening of groups and organisations within the communities to sustain and continue the momentum of development, drawing on community resources and local resource centres. It has been our endeavour to strengthen the community organisations against internal and external counter-forces in order to enhance the socio-economic development process. There is good evidence that this attempt has met with a large measure of success. When viewed in light of hesitation and scepticism displayed by the people earlier, the present enthusiastic and energetic involvement of a large and growing segment of the community is a fair indication of the changes that have occurred over the years. The programme has come a long way, learning nearly as much as it has taught.

*Traditional skills revived to enhance family income.*

INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Unit | |
|---|---|---|
| | Completed | In progress |
| Drinking Water Well | 5 | – |
| Drinking Water Tubewell | 3 | – |
| Platform Construction & Repair | 13 | – |
| Test Bores | 3 | – |
| Net Cover & Hand Pump in Drinking Water Well | 7 | 1 |
| Shallow Tubewell for Irrigation | 3 | 2 |
| Irrigation Channel | 1 | 1 |
| Irrigation Water Transmission System | 1 | – |
| Maintenance of Irrigation Channel | 1 | – |
| Primary School | 1 | – |
| Road Repair | 4 km | – |
| Culvert | – | 1 |
| Construction of Grain Bank | 2 | – |

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

| Type | Unit | Families Benefitted |
|---|---|---|
| Animal husbandry | 370 | 76 |
| Pisciculture | 8 | 46 |
| Bee-keeping appliances | 3 | 3 |
| Village Craft | 1 | 1 |
| Petty Trade | 12 | 27 |
| Cart Wheel and axle | 5 | 5 |
| Rickshaw Van | 3 | 3 |
| Traditional Water lifting devices | 2 | 3 |
| Custom Service | 4 | 13 |
| Pump Set | 4 | 28 |
| Rice processing | 13 | 13 |
| Grain Bank | 1800 kg | 12 |

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 16 | 208 |
| Bee-keeping | – | 9 |
| Community Health Orientation Course | 4 | 30 |
| Immunisation | 4 | – |
| Role of Traditional Birth Attendants in Mother and Child health care | – | 11 |
| Improved sal leaf plate making | – | 7 |
| Programme Planning | 3 | – |
| Management of Village fund and book keeping | 11 | 47 |
| Women and development | 6 | 2 |
| New reporting system | 4 | – |

AGRICULTURE

| Activities | Coverage | |
|---|---|---|
| | Crop Area (in acres) | Farmers benefitted |
| Assistance | | |
| —Harvested Crops | 95 | 226 |
| —Standing Crops | 564 | 935 |
| Crop Protection | 99 | 302 |

AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

| Cropping season | Number of plots | Villages covered |
|---|---|---|
| Monsoon | 2 | 2 |
| Winter | 10 | 10 |

SOCIAL FORESTRY

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Saplings | 13500 |
| Acreage covered | 35 |

KITCHEN GARDEN

| Type of Crop | Acres | People |
|---|---|---|
| Vegetables | 44 | 1289 |

HORTICULTURE

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Saplings | 2400 |
| Families Benefitted | 179 |

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Centres | 29 |
| Student Strength | 486 |

# CALCUTTA PROJECTS

Every metropolitan city in the world has its share of immigrants, but Calcutta's situation is incomparable to that of any other metropolis. The dock and railway yards, the belching chimneys and the humming wheels of industry all hold promises of work for those desperately in search of it. Consequently, people drift in from the surrounding rural areas and small towns where opportunities for employment are not only limited but also rapidly declining.

Calcutta, with its seemingly endless opportunities and capacity to absorb these immigrants, could, at last absorb no more, when this trickle of people became a steady stream. Recurrent droughts and floods, fragmentation of land to uneconomic holdings as a result of growth in population, a steady decline of returns from fields degraded for lack of adequate care, were all contributory factors in swelling the population of the city. Partition of India with a massive influx of refugees in 1947 and arrival of those who left East Pakistan following the disturbances preceding the formation of Bangladesh in 1971 are the historical causes which have contributed to the massive growth of the city population.

Those who arrived soon found a niche, often among immigrants like themselves, who had come earlier, and found work of some kind and a shelter in a hovel in one of the numerous dingy, narrow lanes, with which the many slums of the city are crisscrossed. When even such shelter was not available they crowded any place they could find, such as canal banks, vacant land, footpaths or railway stations. These people often found a livelihood either as itinerant sellers of toys, trinkets or eatables, or sold garments and vegetables on the pavements. The ranks of those living on canal embankments, footpaths and open patches of ground have swelled to something like three million, in the population of a little over 10 million which the Greater Calcutta area holds.

Ill-fed and ill-trained, these people were in no position to better their lot without external assistance. Indeed, there was reason to fear that both their health and economic conditions would further deteriorate. They lived either under the open sky or in hovels without adequate living space or ventilation. They had very little or no access to such elementary civic amenities as clean drinking water within a reasonable distance or facilities for waste disposal. Since they lived from hand-to-mouth, everyone including the children had to go out and find work. They neither had facilities to educate their children, nor could they afford to let the children take time off from the burden of contributing to the family incomes to go to school, which under their condition of existence was an unthinkable luxury. So, if the present was dismal, the future was worse. The children soon became victims of malnutrition, intestinal and skin diseases brought on by insanitary living conditions and the drinking of polluted water. To these people under these conditions, to plan for a future was just a dream.

Calcutta projects, initiated in 1976, works with 100,000 of this population through 3 centres established at Entally, Ultadanga and Salt Lake, in three different parts of the city. The project endeavours to give these communities hope in place of the present despair, to equip them with skills which would enable them to help themselves to a better and more assured income, and with that to better nutrition for themselves and their children, and eventually to a more acceptable standard of shelter, environment, social services and a more meaningful community life.

Towards this end the project has promoted multifarious development activities, which include vocational training for unemployed and the underemployed youth, non-formal education (NFE) centres, formal schools, community health care and education as well as support to educational institutions and organisations working for under privileged children.

Education for children and adults is a very major component of the project activities. To impart NFE and functional literacy to adults and those beyond school-going age, particularly the working children, nineteen NFE centres have been organised in the project area. Twelve are for children, one for men and six for women. These centres have 381 students on their rolls, 284 children and 97 adults. The NFE centres, besides laying stress on functional literacy, also endeavours to develop other personality traits like self-confidence and foster community spirit. The participation of the communities, particularly the youth organisations, in these efforts is most heartening. In most cases accommodation for the centres, has been arranged by the communities. Communities have also appointed teachers and supervise the progress of the centres. Girls and women from orthodox families and communities have also started to attend these centres in growing numbers.

Yet another form of investment in education for the children of the communities is the two primary schools, one each at Ultadanga and Entally and the kindergarten school at Salt Lake. These three schools together have over 650 children on their rolls. The educational system followed in these schools is specially designed for the children of these underprivileged communities. Sound formal education is imparted by trained teachers, with extensive use of appropriate educational aids. In addition, positive personality traits, such as self-confidence, leadership and discipline are sought to be developed through co-curricular group activities like games, sports and play acting. Music, dancing and painting are also encouraged.

Evidences of the community's aspiration and commitment towards providing free elementary education to its children are available at 3 pre-primary centres established by the communities in Salt Lake. These three centres, which impart elementary education to nearly 300 children are totally managed by the community organisations who also bear about 15 percent of the administrative costs. Efforts have been initiated by the communities to obtain government aid to ensure future viability and continuation of these centres without any other external support.

Similarly, in response to the keen desire of the parents of the community to educate their children, whetted by the efforts of the project staff, representative bodies and youth groups have provided suitable accommodation in central places where the children can study, away from the distraction of their noisy and congested living quarters. In addition, literate volunteers from the community supervise and help the children with their lessons whenever necessary. Two such centres, where a total of nearly 50 children study are functioning in the Entally area.

Five students studying in higher classes are being coached in private institutions since they are mostly first generation literates and cannot obtain coaching suitable to their standards, either in their homes or through volunteers in the community.

In addition three creches for approximately 200 children are run by community groups in the Salt Lake and Entally complex areas, with assistance from LWS India. These centres, meant for children below six years, provide a package of services which include nutrition, health care and education.

To provide better education, particularly to children of the underprivileged segment of the society, has been the prime aim of LWS India. This, it has sought to do by encouraging community action as well as through direct efforts where necessary. Some of these direct efforts have been in the form of assisting needy communities and educational institutions to repair, reconstruct and build structures. During 1987, 5 free primary schools and one secondary school were assisted to reconstruct and renovate the school buildings, benefiting approximately 2000 students. In addition, another free primary school was assisted with furniture.

While NFE centres, primary and pre-primary schools cater to the educational needs of the community, vocational training programmes attempt to address the severe problem of unemployment and underemployment faced by these communities. Appropriate vocational and apprenticeship programmes are organised to enhance the employment opportunities of the literate and semi-literate youth. Efforts are made to keep the trainings need-based, people-oriented and capable of meeting the changing circumstances of advancing technologies. Trades and professions which have scope for expansion, diversification and high job potential are selected. These include a wide range of subjects such as T.V. and radio assembly and repair, typewriting, auto lighting, knitting, motor driving, block printing, first-aid and home nursing. In order to make the best use of the training, the aptitude and the 'will to work' of the applicants are assessed with the help of professionals in the field of applied psychology. A follow-up of the subsequent careers of successful trainees has confirmed the effectiveness of this method of candidate selection.

During the year, the vocational training schemes were reviewed and the syllabi changed wherever necessary to introduce greater degrees of technical and professional inputs. Techniques of marketing, costing, economics of production and related subjects have been included in the curriculum to make the training more effective.

Training programmes conducted on the principles of TST (training stipend and tools), impart skills to the unskilled, equip them with basic tools and arrange working capital as required on completion of training. While training in traditional crafts are conducted within the communities, training in subjects requiring greater technical expertise and equipments, are conducted in collaboration with professional training institutions. During 87, Ultadanga, Salt Lake and Entally centres trained approximately 500 youth in various disciplines.

A number of women trainees of the Salt Lake area have taken the initiative to form a co-operative society. The society now sells ready-made garments, jam, jelly, pickles and spices manufactured by its members. It hopes to diversify its activities, and to bring the present number of 71 share holders to 100.

Working capital assistance provided by banks and other funding agencies has given a new impetus to the unemployed to put their training and skills into productive use in small self-employment ventures and co-operatives. The process of obtaining financial support from banks and other agencies was initiated by LWS India. However, community organisations have over the years assumed all the responsibilities of these transactions in their respective communities. Community organisations conduct the preliminary assessment of viability of schemes, eligibility of applicants, monitor the use of loans as well as organise and supervise the timely repayment of loans. To the trainees, the self-employed and the unemployed, hailing from the poorest sections of the community, bank loans have come as a boon and they have tried to keep alive the trust and confidence the banks and the sponsoring agencies have shown in them and their projects. Loan recovery rates ranging between 90-95 percent provide ample evidence of these efforts by the loanees and their representative bodies. In 1987, 220 persons availed of bank loans amounting to over Rs. 550,000/-.

Workshops, seminars and training in conceptual skills have been undertaken for the staff to enable them to develop professionalism and keep themselves aware of the developments taking place in their respective fields of activities. Similar programmes were organised for the user groups in order to strengthen their understanding of the development process, increase managerial capabilities and to organise as well as prepare them to assume greater responsibilities for the socio-economic uplift of their communities. Ninety five members of the staff and more than 160 from the communities participated in several such programmes organised during the year.

Insanitary living conditions, inadequate civic amenities and poor diets make the people highly vulnerable to diseases. Malnutrition is rampant among children and adults. Community health clinics functioning from Ultadanga, Salt Lake and Entally centres emphasise preventive and promotive aspects of health care. Ante-natal and post-natal care, immunization of children and mothers, prevention of malnutrition in children and health education are the major activities. Curative and referral services are also provided wherever necessary. Home visits, group meetings and mass meetings are regularly arranged to increase

community's awareness regarding health matters. Women's organisations and youth groups have come forward to organise and participate in health education activities.

To mitigate the recurring inconvenience and health hazard of water logging in some of the low-lying sectors of the Ultadanga extension area, 2,150 running feet of drain was built. This will benefit 7,000 people living in four squatter settlements. The bank of a pond was re-inforced in another settlement to the benefit of 500 people.

Yet, another squatter settlement of 200 people was assisted to bring the municipal filtered water supply to a convenient location within the settlement.

Six tubewells have been sunk to provide safe drinking water.

The Salt Lake Centre assisted in building a 2 km all weather brick-paved road in one of the three villages, which have been included in the operational area. These villages on the periphery of the metropolis have remained beyond the scope of development efforts undertaken by urban as well as rural development agencies. Construction of this road, for which the people participated with labour, will provide 7500 people easier access to the city markets and services like hospitals and schools.

A community centre is being built in another village, where the land has been donated by the community. When completed, this multipurpose centre will benefit 100 people. The centre will be used for meetings, for non-formal education and for community health activities.

The Ultadanga complex operates a night shelter for the shelterless.

*Monitoring child health through periodical weighing.*

It accommodates 70 men and boys and an equal number of women and girls. Some, whose huts have not enough space for growing children, also find shelter here. This shelter serves as the primary school in the day, where 350 students study.

Calcutta projects work in close collaboration with various government agencies, local voluntary organisations, funding agencies, banks and training institutions. Collaboration and support of these agencies have resulted in manifold benefits for the people. While banks and other agencies ensure working capital assistance to the trained and self-employed, organisations engaged in marketing have come forward to support the small groups of entrepreneurs trained by LWS to reach wider markets and more remunerative prices. Collaboration with professional training institutions has reduced administrative costs and more importantly introduced greater technological inputs into the training programme.

In the extension areas of Entally, Salt Lake and Ultadanga, local people's organisations have mushroomed and are actively involved in the development process. All development activities are planned and implemented through these bodies. Involvement of youth and women's organisations in the development efforts has given a new meaning and depth to these efforts. Selection of candidates for training, monitoring the use and repayment of bank loans, organising and supervising community health activities, as well as NFE centres and pre-primary education centres are among the major activities of the community organisations and youth groups.

Amidst the gloom of the urban deprivation there is one gleam of light — a bright gleam indeed. It is the eagerness of the communities to unite and do all it can to improve their conditions. It is heartening to note that despite their hardships people have not lost hope but are amazingly resilient and ready to reciprocate any gesture to better their lot with whatever they can do to help the process.

### TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Montessori method of teaching | 1 | – |
| Community health | 8 | 25 |
| Non-formal education | 2 | – |
| Development motivation & youth leadership | 1 | – |
| Women & development | 13 | 1 |
| Entrepreneurship | 3 | – |
| New reporting system | 1 | – |
| Appropriate rural technology | 1 | – |

### BANK LOAN

| Loan amount (in Rupees) | Families benefitted |
|---|---|
| 203,000 | 53 |

## ULTADANGA

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Number trained |
|---|---|
| Sewing machine repairing | 10 |
| Stitching of hosiery garments | 6 |
| Stitching of readymade garments | 42 |
| 'Kantha' (traditional embroidery) | 10 |
| Ayah's duty | 10 |
| Doll making | 9 |
| Typewriting | 3 |
| Radio & transistor repair & assembling | 15 |
| Television servicing | 10 |
| Electronic and electrical equipments | 30 |
| Auto Lighting | 10 |
| Pottery | 6 |
| Motor driving | 19 |
| Total | 180 |

### EDUCATION

| | Roll strength | Successful students |
|---|---|---|
| Formal | 335 | 216 |

| | Number of centres | Student strength |
|---|---|---|
| Non-formal | 10 | 182 |

### INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Unit |
|---|---|
| Tubewell | 2 |
| Water pipe connection | 1 |
| Drainage | 3 |
| Pond bank piling | 1 |
| Renovation & reconstruction of primary schools | 2 |

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Subject | Number trained |
|---|---|
| Tailoring | 56 |
| Machine embroidery | 5 |
| Electrical machine embroidery | 8 |
| Domestic electrical work | 17 |
| Leather bag making | 6 |
| Soap & detergent | 15 |
| Total | 107 |

### INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Unit |
|---|---|
| Renovation & construction of schools | 4 |
| Community centre | 1 |
| Roads | 2 km |

## SALT LAKE

### TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Montessori method of teaching | 1 | 9 |
| Development motivation & youth leadership | 1 | – |
| Organising day care centre for Pre-school children | 4 | 19 |
| Community health | 2 | 47 |
| Entrepreneurship | 5 | – |
| New reporting system | 2 | – |
| Women & development | 8 | 7 |
| Project planning | 1 | – |
| Social defence | – | 2 |

### EDUCATION

| | Roll strength | Successful students |
|---|---|---|
| Formal | 296 | 166 |

| | Number of centres | Students strength |
|---|---|---|
| Pre-Primary | 3 | 296 |

| | Number of centres | Students strength |
|---|---|---|
| Non-formal | 2 | 49 |

### BALWADI

| | Number of centres | Children |
|---|---|---|
| Balwadi (Child day care centre) | 2 | 153 |

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Number trained |
|---|---|
| Tailoring | 79 |
| Needle work & embroidery | 41 |
| Advanced tailoring & machine embroidery | 8 |
| Batik | 11 |
| Knitting | 12 |
| Block printing | 9 |
| Automobile pump & generator repairs | 3 |
| First aid & home nursing | 13 |
| TV & Radio assembling | 14 |
| Motor driving | 23 |
| Total | 213 |

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Montessori method of teaching | 3 | – |
| Community health | 7 | 36 |
| First aid | 1 | – |
| Organising day care centre for pre-school children | – | 2 |
| Non-formal education | 3 | – |
| Development motivation & youth leadership | 1 | – |
| Women & development | 17 | 15 |
| Entrepreneurship | 5 | 1 |
| Project appraisal & funding | 2 | – |
| New reporting system | 2 | – |

EDUCATION

| | Roll Strength | Successful students |
|---|---|---|
| Formal | 250 | 200 |

| | Number of centres | Student strength |
|---|---|---|
| Non-formal | 7 | 150 |

INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Unit |
|---|---|
| Tubewell | 4 |

BALWADI

| | Number of centres | Children |
|---|---|---|
| Balwadi (Child day care centre) | 1 | 40 |

BANK LOAN

| Loan amount (in Rupees) | Families benefitted |
|---|---|
| 351,000 | 167 |

# ON-SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The city of Calcutta, once a sprawling metropolis distinguished by it's imposing edifices and stretches of tree-lined avenues, is now but a shadow of its original self. What immediately hits the eye is its teeming population, a population too large to be comfortably accommodated within its bounds. Out of a population of over 10 million about two-thirds live in temporary make-shift structures while approximately 3,00,000 people survive on its footpaths with no shelter whatsoever to protect them from the vagaries of nature.

Ill-ventilated, dark and unhygienic houses present a picture of untold misery. Rotting heaps of refuse, overflowing sewers and the all-pervasive stench are the predominant features of the slums and the squatter settlements.

The need for upgradation and development of such habitats were recognised quite early by the State Government. At one time evacuation of these categories of people and provision of alternative accommodation for them was tried by the Government. Subsequently, the housing colonies as well as multi-storeyed complexes were constructed at some places to rehouse these unfortunates. But neither of these two attempts met with much success.

On request from the State Government, LWS agreed to initiate a pilot project termed "On-Site Improvement Projects", based on the concept of urban regeneration through maximum utilisation of existing resources for the creation of a better environment. The project was initiated in 1985 in two sectors namely Khudirampally in Ultadanga, in the northern part of the city and Dasnagar in Howrah, an industrial township across the river Hooghly. The project is conceived as a collaborative effort of the people, government and semi-government agencies, banks and other social organisations.

The project, as the name suggests, aims at improving the living conditions of the communities through functionally better houses, improved sanitation and community facilities, adequate supply of clean drinking water, community-oriented health services, educational facilities and income generating activities.

Khudirampally, the larger of the two settlements, has 328 families. Most of them are refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. On first arriving in the city these people settled on the banks of the canal that runs through the area and on railway embankments, from where they were time and again evicted. Tired of thus being repeatedly hounded out, they occupied their present location and constructed temporary make-shift huts, the average floor space of each hut being 150 sq. ft.

Unlike the people in Khudirampally, the 71 families in Dasnagar belong mostly to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities, who hailed from the States of Orissa and Bihar, while a few were also from Midnapore district of West Bengal. About 50 years ago they were induced to migrate to their present location by an industrialist for whom they were a cheap source of labour. They were allowed to build their hutments around the factory premises. Subsequently, the factories closed down and the status of these labourers changed to that of squatters i.e. illegal occupants of privately owned land.

Although the earlier attempts made by the State Government to transfer the ownership of the land to the residents met with opposition from the original land owners, mid 1987 saw a change in the situation. The government together with the residents initiated negotiations with the original land owners and was able to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. Land was freed from litigation and ownership rights were

conferred on the residents. Soon after, a demarcation wall was built to seperate the settlement from the premises of the factory.

In the meantime efforts had already been initiated to design layout plans for the two settlements. These plans have been prepared by a qualified town planner and others in consultation with the communities concerned.

While both the settlements have strong and active community organisations, the representative body in Khudirampally has made considerable progress particularly in moulding the residents into a well knit community.

During 1987, activities pertaining to improvement of people's economy, health and hygiene as well as education and training continued. In Dasnagar, 110 men and women were imparted functional literacy through the NFE centres while 45 persons (8 men and 37 women) were trained in various vocations such as tailoring and sewing, motor driving, mushroom cultivation and poultry and duck rearing. Among those trained, 14 members were assisted to start duck rearing on an experimental basis. Those trained in tailoring and sewing formed a group, secured loans from the community fund and started manufacturing ready-made garments.

In Khudirampally 27 persons including 16 women, were similarly trained in different skills, like stitching of ready-made garments, motor and auto-rickshaw driving and typewriting.

Several other trainings, workshops and seminars were organised for people as well as staff in both the sectors. Montessori methods of teaching, techniques of child care,

*Skill upgradation through education and training .....*

community health and issues related to women's development were among the subjects covered. Fifty seven of the user groups and 5 members of the staff participated.

Infrastructure facilities created during the year included a general purpose well at Dasnagar, and 1500 feet of sewer lines, 2 community water closets and an electric meter room for the 328 families of Khudirampally. Construction of the electric meter room will facilitate electrification of the area which will help the small scale and cottage industries.

As a part of the training and self employment activities in Khudirampally, 24 bank loans totalling Rs. 86,500/- were arranged for various economic ventures. The total amount of bank loans, disbursed since inception, are more than Rs. 500,000 to 243 applicants. On account of the excellent recovery rates, largely due to the community organisation's efforts, banks continue to extend support and increase their lending operations.

The self-supporting community structures have played a key role in furthering the involvement of banks and funding agencies for the development of the area. These groups carry out the major task of identifying, scrutinising and verifying individual needs as well as monitor the use and timely repayment of loans.

The medical programme continued to lay stress on the preventive and promotive aspects of health. Seventy five percent and seventy six percent of the children were immunized against polio in Dasnagar and Khudirampally respectively. In both the sectors, 90 percent of the expectant and nursing mothers were visited and advised on matters relating to their health and that of their children. Forty five percent of the couples in the reproductive age group were given advice on family planning measures. Curative services were rendered to a total number of 2052 people of the intensive as well as peripheral areas. In addition, the health staff made 1511 family visits and held 166 meetings to make the people more health conscious. A homeopathic clinic, established in collaboration with a Calcutta based medical college, continues to complement the community health activities at Dasnagar.

..... *provides better employment opportunities for women.*

The community organised an athletic meet, at which 40, including women and children participated. The event and the practice sessions preceding it, helped foster the community spirit and break down the barriers and sense of helpless isolation in which the community was immersed.

The community organizations in both the sectors have displayed strong initiative and dynamism towards solving the problems of the communities. Their leadership has accelerated the socio-economic development and has helped create bonds of fellowship among members of the communities. A major achievement of these representative bodies has been the establishing of rapport and relationship with government and other statutory bodies to facilitate the grant of the title deeds of the land to the squatters. This has not only instilled and generated greater confidence among the people but has also helped establish a model which demonstrates the benefits of collective functioning.

## KHUDIRAMPALLY

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Number trained |
|---|---|
| Stitching of readymade garments | 12 |
| Typewriting | 4 |
| Auto-rickshaw driving | 6 |
| Motor driving | 5 |

### TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Community Health | 1 | 11 |
| Role of Health Workers | – | 1 |
| Immunization | 1 | – |
| Women & development | 1 | – |
| New reporting system | 1 | – |

### BANK LOAN

| Loan Amount (in Rupees) | People benefited |
|---|---|
| 86,500 | 24 |

### INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Unit |
|---|---|
| Construction & extension of drain | 4 |
| Construction of electric meter room | 1 |
| Electrification of community centre, community health centre and primary school | 3 |
| Community latrines | 2 |

## DASNAGAR

### EDUCATION

| | Number of centres | Student strength |
|---|---|---|
| Non-formal | 4 | 110 |

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Number Trained |
|---|---|
| Tailoring | 14 |
| Bag making (Cotton & Jute) | 13 |
| 'Bori' & 'Papad' making | 10 |
| Motor Driving | 8 |

### TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| NFE Teachers | – | 2 |
| Montessori Teachers | – | 2 |
| 'Balwadi' & 'Anganwadi' (Child day care centres) | – | 2 |
| Awareness on available schemes for the backward communities | – | 26 |
| Entrepreneurship | 1 | – |
| Community health | – | 24 |
| Malnutrition & first aid | 8 | 40 |
| Duck farming | – | 14 |
| Mushroom cultivation | – | 3 |
| Women & development | 2 | 1 |
| Media & culture | – | 3 |
| New reporting systems | 2 | – |

### INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

| Type | Unit | Families covered |
|---|---|---|
| Duck Rearing | 45 | 14 |
| Papad making | 10 | 10 |

### INFRASTRUCTURE

| Type | Completed | In progress |
|---|---|---|
| Drinking water tubewell | 1 | 2 |
| Ring Well | 1 | – |
| Community latrines | 5 | – |
| Boundary wall | – | 1 |

# MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS

Murshidabad Projects commenced in 1975 as an emergency and relief programme for the flood and erosion affected people. At the further request of the State Government, LWS initiated a housing resettlement programme on land made available by the government.

Subsequently, development activities were undertaken to assist these resettled people to start life afresh in their new environment. After several years of collaborative efforts, LWS began the process of phased withdrawal from the settlements in 1984 by which time, people in the settlements had achieved considerable progress.

In accordance with plans drawn up earlier, the project, simultaneously, extended its operation to villages in the flood and drought prone Sagardighi Block. In 1987, the project through its activities covered 15,000 people in 30 villages.

Like most other districts of West Bengal, Murshidabad also has a largely agrarian population. Ironically however, the land/man ratio is critically low due to land fragmentation and a rapidly growing population.

Nearly 40 percent of the people are landless and an equal proportion are marginal farmers, who account for barely 1/7th of the total agricultural land holding. Absence of industries further compounds the problem. These factors make Murshidabad an especially backward and vulnerable district, which suffers from all the disadvantages of an undeveloped region.

Adopting a participatory approach to community development,

the project during the year continued to stress on people's involvement in all spheres of development activities. The response, particularly that of the youth, has been extremely encouraging as they have come forward in large numbers and are gradually assuming the mantle of leadership.

This has not only strengthened the existing structures but also helped promote formation of smaller bodies like functional groups, youth clubs and mahila samities. Consequently, this facilitated the weaker sections like the landless, marginal farmers and the women to actively participate in the development process.

To complement and support the people's efforts to achieve growth, especially in the economic sphere, LWS provided fertilisers and pesticides as well as shallow tubewells for enhancing agricultural productivity. Material assistance for income generation schemes, health care services, drinking water, road construction for better communication and most importantly education and training for skill formation and development of managerial capabilities were among the various other inputs made available by the project.

There are a number of major problems preventing development of the agricultural sector, foremost among which is fragmentation of land. Furthermore, prevailing agricultural practices are outdated, technology for multi-cropping unknown and the seeds used are primarily of the low-yielding variety. Farmers also lack the means and knowledge for judicious use of fertilisers. With the literacy rate being only 24 percent, their ability to acquire knowledge and skills for necessary scientific farming is indeed limited.

Hence, in agriculture steps calculated to increase productivity were encouraged by both precept and example. These included correct composting of organic manure, application of proper and timely doses of fertilisers, use of good quality high yielding seeds and proper drainage and irrigation.

An interesting feature of the agricultural trainings and demonstrations was its widespread impact, resulting in almost overnight adoption of improved practices by the farmers. Agriculture demonstrations concentrated on conservation of rain water for the second crop, multi-cropping methods, cultivation of high yielding paddy and seed treatment and testing of soil samples. Demonstration plots organised in

*Health education through group meetings.*

the clutches of the money lenders. In another hamlet, 5 families were assisted to start a similar grain bank.

A health survey conducted in the project area revealed that 31 percent of the children under the age of six years suffered from 2nd and 3rd degree malnutrition. Intestinal, skin and respiratory diseases also prevailed on an exceptionally high scale. Lack of knowledge of community health, immunization and the high birth rate were among the major causes. The project's community health services intensified its efforts through family visits, group and mass meetings, to educate people about the implications of these health hazards. Audio-visual aids and practical demonstrations were carried out to enthuse people about health care.

*Traditional birth attendants have undergone training.*

Local 'dais' (traditional birth attendants) 13 of whom received training during the year, were mobilised in ante-natal and post-natal care activities. Government agencies also collaborated in the immunization programme and provided vitamin and mineral supplements. These efforts are yielding results in weaning people away from the curative to the preventive aspects of health care. Over 5000 people in 8 villages were covered under intensive health care, while curative services were rendered to nearly 2500 people in 10 villages.

Similarly, another survey conducted in the project area revealed that the literacy rate among males was 24 percent while it was a mere 8 percent among the women. The project at every opportunity emphasised the need and importance of education in almost every facet of the individuals' and community's life. The twenty NFE centres that dot the project area constituted the major means to reduce the prevailing illiteracy rates. Besides the 326 students who were imparted functional literacy during 1987, nine women and girls, past pupils of NFE, received tailoring training at the centres, to augment their family incomes. NFE centres also organised discussions and trainings on subjects related to people's livelihood as well as community development activities. Several rural lending libraries established in the project area provided support to the continuing education process. Training is an essential part of education, especially when it is designed to increase people's knowledge to improve the quality of their lives. In

*Existing storage structures .....*

1987, training programmes concentrated on developing expertise of the staff as well as members of the community. While 82 members of the user groups participated in training programmes covering subjects related to agriculture, livestock, poultry, community health and leadership among others, 39 members of the staff attended various training courses to improve their skills.

To co-ordinate and facilitate the various development activities, most communities had initially formed village committees. Over the years, however, certain flaws became evident in these structures. Quite often these committees failed to fulfil their role as truly representative bodies. Lack of satisfactory services to the community, especially to the weaker and vulnerable sections frequently resulted in disaffection. As an alternative, many of the communities considered formation of smaller groups. As each group would primarily be responsible for their own development, people expressed the hope that progress would be more rapid. The resources generated and created through inputs received would be equitably shared among the group members. As a result, functional groups formed around viable economic and social activities have grown at a quicker pace. These groups proved to be more effective than the earlier village committees, especially in increasing people's involvement in the development process. The youth in many of the communities, played a vital role in this development.

*are being upgraded .....*

By the end of the year, 20 village communities had generated their own revolving funds amounting to Rs. 330,000/-. In addition, these communities also recycled Rs. 33,000/- for providing agricultural inputs to marginal farmers and also for implementing various self-help activities for the landless.

Recycling the funds in this manner represented for the people, a radical departure from their earlier outlook. Helping village committees overcome their hesitation, born out of scepticism, about people's ability to manage the funds, became a major task for the project staff. One by one, the village committees—custodians of the fund, realised the relevance of what the project was emphasising. As their perceptions changed, their confidence also began to grow. This greater understanding and awareness about the dynamics of the revolving funds was thus a major step forward for the communities concerned, especially as decision makers in their own development efforts.

*to prevent loss of food grains.*

## INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

| Type | Unit | Families Benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Animal Husbandry | 39 | 43 |
| Pisciculture | 1 | 8 |
| Bee-keeping | 2 | 2 |
| Bullock Cart | 4 | 4 |
| Petty Business | 48 | 51 |
| Tailoring | 1 | 1 |
| Bamboo Craft & Furniture | 2 | 32 |
| 'Ambar' Charka (Spinning) | 12 | 12 |
| Radio Repairing | 1 | 1 |
| Welding Business | 1 | 1 |
| Paddy Husking | 34 | 34 |
| Grain Bank | 2 | 78 |

## INFRASTRUCTURE

| Item | Unit |
|---|---|
| Drinking Water Tubewell | 15 |
| Resinking of Tubewell | 11 |
| Tubewell platform | 15 |
| Shallow Tubewell (Irrigation) | 30 |
| Rejuvenation of shallow tubewell | 2 |
| School | 3 |
| Multipurpose Centre | 2 |
| Grain Bank | 1 |
| Dugwell latrine | 42 |

## AGRICULTURE

| Type | Crop Area (in Acres) | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Harvested Crops | 217 | 284 |
| Standing Crops | 731 | 1266 |

## AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

| Cropping Season | Villages covered | Number of plots |
|---|---|---|
| Monsoon | 10 | 4 |
| Winter | 8 | 4 |

## TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 17 | 22 |
| Animal husbandry | 1 | – |
| Poultry rearing | – | 5 |
| Duck farming | 1 | 7 |
| Repair & maintenance of pump | 1 | 9 |
| Role of traditional birth attendants in mother and child health care | – | 13 |
| Community health | 4 | 17 |
| Immunization | 7 | – |
| Development motivation & leadership | – | 9 |
| Women and development | 6 | – |
| Project formulation and management | 1 | – |
| New reporting formats | 1 | – |

## NON FORMAL EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Centres | 20 |
| Student Strength | 326 |

# KULTALI PROJECTS

Kultali Block in Sunderbans, where LWS initiated development activities in April 1985, is among the most underdeveloped areas in West Bengal. In this deltaic region, vagaries of nature and exploitative forces continue to deprive the people of a dignified means of existence.

Storms and cyclones whip up gigantic tidal bores, which inundate the carefully tended fields, destroying the standing crops planted with great labour and sacrifice. The fields are also rendered unproductive for any other crop in the immediate future. These disasters which strike periodically, sweep away the fragile huts, contaminate the few sources of fresh drinking water and in general wreck havoc on the economy.

The worst affected are the landless and the small and marginal farmers who constitute more than 90 percent of the population. Absence of alternate sources of employment further compound the problems faced by these groups. Kultali, like the rest of Sunderban region, suffers from extremely poor communication, health and educational facilities. Education is an incomprehensible luxury to the majority. The need to work for supplementing family incomes, the dilapidated conditions of the school buildings, the long distances, the mud and slush—particularly during the monsoons, dissuade even the most eager child from availing of the limited educational facilities. Infant mortality is high, water borne diseases are rather the rule than the exception and malnutrition is rampant among adults and children alike. In an environment where the problem is to get enough to eat even once a day, the concept of a balanced diet is often beyond people's comprehension. Hence it is no wonder that the people of this region have displayed a marked tendency to migrate to urban centres, particularly Calcutta.

Creating conditions for improving the quality of life to help arrest the migratory tendencies is among the major long term goals of the Project. However, the immediate task was to build up self-confidence in the people and to arouse in them an urge to better their lot. The apathy, dejection and helplessness among the people posed major barriers, demanding careful planning and effective strategies.

Slowly rapport was established with stray groups of people in the villages. Frequent visits and lengthy discussions helped establish a two-way dialogue, from which emerged the idea of village committees, youth-clubs and women's groups. The idea sank in, that many more things were possible when people united to identify their problems and sought solutions collectively.

These efforts to build up and strengthen the co-operative spirit have been successful. No less than 25 village committees chosen by the people of the respective areas were actively involved in planning, administering and monitoring the progress of the various projects in their villages.

The women too began to realise that they could use their time more fruitfully. Many women of the villages have come forward to organise social, economic, health and other small functional groups.

The women play a prominent role in educating the others in the community regarding the need for immunization, importance of clean drinking water and nutritious food for their children. Many village women have been encouraged to grow kitchen gardens which have yielded rich harvests of vegetables for their families. While many used seeds stored from earlier seasons, 88 families were provided fresh inputs for their kitchen gardens.

*Village committees are actively involved in planning and monitoring project activities.*

Women's involvement in the development process is extremely important not only because they constitute about 46 percent of the population but also because as mothers and housewives they play a key role in shaping the family's, particularly the children's, future. A heartening aspect of this inclusion of women in the various schemes is that a fair percentage of those coming forward is from the Muslim community which is normally more conservative with regard to women.

An incidental, though no less important, aspect of the inclusion of women in the development process is the opportunity it gives to women from the different villages and different communities to come together and mingle socially, which they were not able to do earlier. This coming together also stimulates the more backward among them to adopt progressive steps with regard to the family's welfare.

Agriculture, the major source of livelihood for more than 90 percent of the population depends entirely on monsoons which prevail for 3—4 months a year and are often erratic. While lack of capital for inputs is the most severe constraint, soil and water salinity and frequent floods are the other major factors that adversely affect agriculture production. It is under these circumstances that the project has endeavoured to introduce improved practices, new crops as well as appropriate technology. This extension work is often backed up by assisting the farmers with inputs in the form of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides.

Shallow tanks, for impounding fresh water, have been identified as a possible solution for reducing the uncertainities related to rainfed farming. Since the lower layers of soil are comparatively less saline, digging, turning over and spreading the excavated sub-soil on the fields have proved effective in reducing soil salinity and increasing yields. Furthermore, shallow tanks have also facilitated introduction of new crops such as wheat, mustard and vegetables during winter. The 15 shallow tanks excavated during the year added a new dimension to agriculture in a traditional mono-crop area. Besides, these fresh water ponds have also been used for fish farming, further increasing family incomes.

During the year, 458 farmers were assisted with paddy seeds to cultivate 407 acres of land. Another 238 farmers were provided fertilisers for paddy grown on 166 acres of land. While 437 farmers cultivated vegetables with LWS assistance, wheat and mustard were cultivated by 15 and 76 farmers respectively with water from the newly excavated fresh water ponds.

In the sphere of infrastructure, among the major assets created during the year are one primary school building and extension of a secondary school building. In this underdeveloped area where educational facilities are extremely inadequate, most of the dilapidated school buildings present a depressing picture. Hence, construction of these facilities becomes a very necessary investment for education of the children in the community. These structures also provide shelter to the people during floods and cyclones which are fairly frequent.

Community centres, 3 of which have been constructed during the year, represent another major community asset. Communities have whole-heartedly participated in the construction of these low cost structures. While the better-off members have donated land, others have contributed local building materials and voluntary labour towards these efforts. These centres serve as community meeting places, non-formal education centres as well as provide the common interest groups a base and shelter for carrying on their activities.

Other facilities completed during the year include building of 4 kms of brick-paved roads, one foot-bridge and eight hume-pipe culverts. The link roads, constructed with voluntary community labour

and LWS assistance have had great impact on people's lives. These help village folk to keep in touch, transport their produce to more remunerative markets and facilitate movement of patients to the nearest place of medical aid. The roads also provide a means of livelihood to unemployed young people, who ply cycle rickshaw vans on them. Almost all such youth who were helped by the community and LWS to procure these vans, which are the only means of transport, now have regular incomes. A total of 19 rickshaw vans have been given to as many landless and unemployed youth during the year.

The four tubewells sunk during the year have eased the burden of the women who otherwise would have had to fetch drinking water from great distances, or in the alternative, drink contaminated water from the ponds.

Almost all families in the area have small general purpose ponds on homestead plots. Aiming to capitalise on every single available resource, fish farming was encouraged in these ponds to augment family incomes and nutrition.

Despite the great demand for fish, farmers have not been able to use fish farming effectively, largely because of lack of knowledge of improved techniques and capital. Altogether 537 families, spread over 18 villages were assisted with spawn and fish feed to improve fish yields from their ponds. In addition, 23 families were assisted to re-excavate and strengthen pond embankments.

Forty two other families were similarly helped with schemes to supplement their incomes. Among these were 'beedi' (a local variety of cheap cigarette) making, nets for

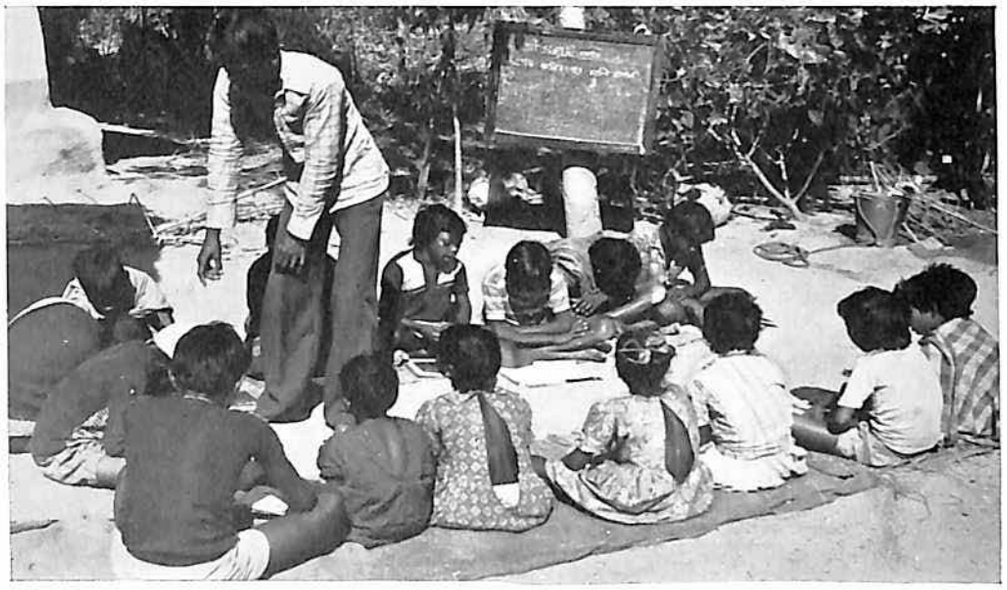
capture fishing, looms for weaving, paddy husking and vending of ready to eat rice products like rice flakes and rice crispies.

Nineteen women have been trained in cotton weaving at training cum-production centres to help them find gainful occupations.

Intensive community health services have been introduced in four villages covering 2000 people. Health care which was virtually non-existent, now witness village women enthusiastically participating in the health care and education activities. While less than 12 percent of the expectant mothers used to avail of ante-natal medical care, presently, more than 62 percent of the expectant mothers attend ante-natal clinics. Assisting the LWS health team in its efforts are the traditional birth attendants, eleven of whom received training during 1987. Adoption of family planning and birth control measures by eligible couples has also increased from 7 percent to 12 percent.

Problems related to storage of vaccines and maintenance of cold chain delayed initiation of immunization activities till late in the year. However, by end of the year 5 percent of the children had received DPT vaccine, while 4 percent were immunized against polio, 19 percent against tuberculosis, 10 percent against measles and 18 percent against typhoid.

During the year, Kultali project operated 17 non-formal education centres, 15 for men and 2 for women. For five to six months in a year, the able-bodied men from the villages migrate to Calcutta and other places in search of employment preventing them from fully availing of the educational opportunities offered by these centres. During the agriculture season when men return to the villages, NFE centres are well attended. Group meetings, discussions and classes on improved methods of agriculture, health and hygiene are conducted regularly at the NFE centres. However, the NFE centres for women are well attended round the year. Community volunteers in-charge of the centres conduct classes for the working village children who cannot attend regular primary schools.



*Working children of the village receive education from Community Volunteers.*

Several trainings, workshops and seminars on agriculture, fish farming, project formulation and management, poultry rearing and other similar subjects were conducted during the year. Eleven project staff and 161 members of the user groups were imparted new skills and their managerial capabilities enhanced.

As lack of capital is among the major constraints faced by the population, the concept of creating village revolving funds to meet their requirements of capital captivated the imagination of the communities. By the end of the year, 24 village committees had their own revolving funds, which totalled above Rs. 50,000/- in bank accounts, while Rs. 42,000/- represents funds recycled since 1985, when the project started.

The revolving funds have been a great boon to the people, accelerating the socio-economic development of the community as a whole and especially the poor and the needy who earlier lacked capital to employ themselves fruitfully. More importantly, it has helped curb the exploitative forces such as the money lenders and other unscrupulous profiteers.

By end of 1987, the pace of development had gained further momentum. The concepts of development have taken firm roots, involving and embracing more communities whose earlier scepticism has since given way to a new faith and confidence in their own abilities.

## AGRICULTURE

| Type | Crop Area (in acres) | Farmers |
|---|---|---|
| Harvested crops | 407 | 458 |
| Standing crops | 10 | 91 |

## KITCHEN GARDEN

| Type of Crop | Acres | People |
|---|---|---|
| Vegetables | 21 | 524 |

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

| Type | Number of Participants |
|---|---|
| Weaving | 19 |

## INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

| Type | Unit | Families Benefitted |
|---|---|---|
| Pisciculture (homestead ponds) | 706 | 539 |
| Weaving | 3 | 9 |
| Rickshaw Van | 19 | 19 |
| Paddy processing | 22 | 22 |
| Bidi Rolling | 8 | 8 |
| Paper packet making | 1 | 1 |
| Fishery nets | 2 | 2 |

## NON FORMAL EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Centres | 17 |
| Student Strength | 277 |

## TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

| Subject | Staff | People |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | – | 53 |
| Poultry management | 1 | 14 |
| Rope Making | – | 31 |
| Pisciculture | – | 9 |
| Community health | – | 20 |
| Role of traditional birth attendants in mother and child care | – | 11 |
| Immunization | 4 | – |
| Women and development | 3 | 4 |
| Project formulation and management | 1 | – |
| New reporting system | 2 | – |

## INFRASTRUCTURE

| Item | Unit |
|---|---|
| Tubewell | 4 |
| Irrigation tanks | 15 |
| Renovation of tanks | 23 |
| School | 2 |
| Community centres | 3 |
| Road | 4 km |
| Hume pipe culverts | 9 |
| Foot bridge | 1 |

# BIRBHUM PROJECTS

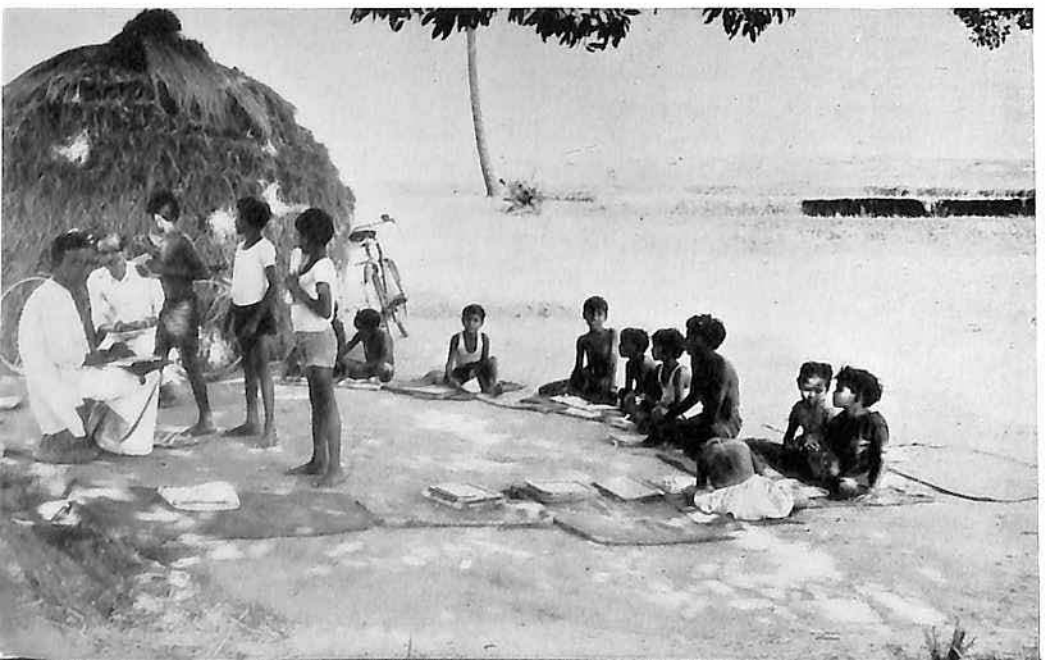
Subsequent to the severe drought of 1982, LWS India, on the request of the government of West Bengal, undertook through its drilling unit, measures to alleviate the drinking water crisis prevailing in Birbhum district. Simultaneously, the Emergency & Rehabilitation Unit also initiated relief measures in the form of food-for-work projects. While the drilling unit completed its operations and withdrew from the area during 1985 the food-for-work activities continued till mid 1987.

In the meantime, both the people and the district administration repeatedly requested LWS to initiate long-term development efforts to help in arresting the worsening situation as a result of recurring drought.

What these long-term measures would constitute were discussed and analysed at length. The magnitude and chronic nature of the problems and LWS' own experience in community development efforts over the last decade, underscored the need for changes in perspectives and evolving suitable strategies. Consequently, with the PREM Cell's help and advice, the project was formulated, which differed considerably in design, from earlier approaches.

In keeping with this methodology and operational strategy, a group of four extension workers after undergoing necessary training and orientation, embarked on a rapport-building exercise in the new project area from April, 1987. Following a series of discussions with government officials and the panchayat (local self-government agency) bodies, 12 villages with an approximate population of 3000 were selected in Rajnagar Block for project activities.

Rajnagar, one of the most impoverished blocks in Birbhum district is spread over 118 villages and has a population of 15000, of which approximately 50 percent is scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The block, like the rest of the district, suffers from frequent spells of drought, which represents a major reason for the retarded economic growth. Large scale deforestation has resulted in ecological imbalances and in accelerating the process of erosion, rendering once fertile land into vast tracts of degraded barren land. Sharp decline in rainfall punctuated by droughts has devastated the economy of the district, which has very few industries and is largely dependent on agriculture. The droughts have proved particularly disastrous to the small and marginal farmers, many of whom have abandoned their fields and have joined the band of migrant landless agricultural labourers.



Frequent droughts have also had an adverse effect on drinking water supply which has added to the hardships and misery of the people, particularly to that of women and children, who often have to fetch water from great distances. Likewise, health services also, are extremely inadequate with the existing facilities being located in the urban and semi-urban areas. Poor communication facilities, illiteracy (68 percent), ignorance, superstition, inequitable distribution and improper use of resources have all contributed to the economic stagnation of the area.

Adopting a low-key approach, the project staff, through visits and informal meetings endeavoured to establish rapport with the people in order to understand their needs and problems as well as their capacities. In light of the people's and the local officials' traditional views of development which has a relief bias, communicating the different nature of the proposed development process, with its emphasis on education, training, mobilisation of resources, people's involvement and collective action, proved a formidable task. Despite the initial rejection of what was considered an impractical approach, concerted efforts by the project team resulted in a gradual but initially sceptical acceptance of the principles propounded by them.

Laying stress on the importance of people's participation in plan-

ning, implementation and monitoring as well as use of local resources and involvement of local development bodies in the various activities, the project, in a brief span of time, succeeded in mobilising resources for joint efforts in certain community schemes.

The project staff also helped feuding factions in some villages to overcome their differences and work for the common good. Identifying existing community organisations and potential leaders as well as encouraging group formation for collective action and decision-making has been a major area of focus. Of great interest has been the display of leadership qualities by the youth in many communities and in particular by tribal women in two hamlets.

While provision of drinking water, creation of community assets, promotion of grain banks and forestry are among the major physical activities, need-based education and training represent the key components for enlightening and equipping the communities to find possible solutions to their problems.

Besides the lack of capital, absence of knowledge and skills are major factors for keeping agricultural productivity below subsistence levels. In attempting to address this need, seven farmers from three hamlets were taken to a progressive village in the Burdwan project to see for themselves improved methods of paddy and groundnut cultivation. Simplicity of the improved methods and the general well-being of the people in the host village created a strong and positive impression in their minds. Helped and guided by the project, a group of people took the initiative in organising and co-ordinating a two-day agriculture training and orientation program, in which government agriculture staff imparted training. Forty-two farmers from different villages participated in the training program, the cost of which was also borne by the communities concerned. Many of the farmers used the training to good effect by undertaking dryland cultivation of winter crops for the first time. With their new-found confidence, a group of farmers availed of improved mustard and wheat seeds from the government's agriculture development office, which in the past had seemed forbidding and inaccessible.

Similarly, in the sphere of education, lack of which has often been expressed by the people as a primary reason for their backwardness, the project attempted to enlighten people through a process of involved analysis to determine the problems and then identify the possible solutions. Reasoning that children's education did not begin and cease with school buildings only, the community of Aguabandhi village realised and accepted the need for taking an active lead in planning and monitoring the education of their children. Ensuring regularity in attendance by the students as well as the teachers will be a major feature of the community's monitoring process. In the meantime the community also approached the local government agency for funds to complete the school building, which for many years had been in a partial state of completion. On receiving a positive response, the community on its part agreed to bear the labour cost and requested LWS to make up the deficit. Another community was similarly motivated to generate resources from within the village to complete a mud and thatch structure which was the village school.

Highlighting the consequences of illiteracy, gradually evoked a response from many, especially the older members of the community, who had initially shied away from going through any form of education. In this respect the most interesting development occurred when an illiterate tribal woman in one of the villages exhibited a keen interest in the Non-Formal Education (NFE) process and asked the project

staff to guide her and a handful of other interested members of the community to set up an NFE centre in their village. Commencing with five shy women, the NFE centre very soon grew into a lively one with 25 students, consisting of both men and women, sitting down to study every evening after the day's chores. Lanterns, slates, chalk and primers were procured by the students themselves, often at great sacrifice. Two literate youth of the village guide and teach the students every evening. Besides playing an instrumental role in starting and sustaining the centre, the woman's leadership qualities helped generate keen enthusiasm for other community development activities. After witnessing these efforts, two neighbouring communities overcame their apathy and expressed their desire to start NFE centres in their villages.

Another village community, which had been plagued by a drinking water crisis due to collapse of their drinking water well, organised a series of meetings with the project staff to draw up an action plan for repair of the well. While LWS was requested to bear the cost of bricks and cement amounting to Rs. 1500/-, representing approximately 50 percent of the total cost, the community agreed to provide voluntary labour for construction, procure sand from a nearby river and also bear the cost of the masons' labour. It was not only heartening but also a little amusing to see the people's surprise at their ability to effectively participate in solving their own problems. They realised that they need not have waited as they had done, for the local authorities to get the well going again.

Similarly, the health service which is virtually non-existent, is gradually becoming a reality in the operational area. The project's liaison with the government health department resulted in more regular and frequent visits by the government's community health workers. At the same time, the project also initiated discussions with the community at large and especially with the womenfolk about different aspects of health. Taking a cue from the project's stress on preventive and promotive care, a tribal woman took the lead in organising an immunization programme for 14 children of her village. The children and their mothers escorted by the newly emerged leader went to the primary health centre at the block headquarters, where they were immunized and a schedule for secondary, tertiary and booster doses were drawn up. Considering their suspicion and fear of modern medicines, this development is indeed unique and encouraging. Of special significance is the fact that for many of the mothers this represented their first ever visit to the health centre located 10 kms. away.

Similarly, hygiene and sanitation have also become major areas of concern to many of the communities, who by the end of the year had drawn up plans for constructing proper drainage and soakpits to prevent accumulation of water in the vicinity of wells. Village youth have taken a leading role in organising 'gram safai' (village sanitation) days, as a part of their drive for better health and hygiene.

Being the most recent project it has been possible to incorporate and strengthen certain components and at the same time exclude strategies which have not provided the desired results.

The operational methodology and strategy adopted, lay significant stress on the fundamentals of social engineering as a means to make the community aware about its problems, causes and possible solutions.

Playing the role of educators and facilitators the project staff have been able to instill confidence and self-respect in people and evoke response which is extremely encouraging.

Support of the government agencies at the district and block levels towards implementation of the Birbhum project has also been very encouraging and augurs well for future collaboration and mobilization of resources.

*Men and women sit down to study every evening after the days chores.*

# DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

Development activities undertaken by LWS India aim at improving the quality of life among the assisted population. An improvement in quality of life depends on the development of material and human resources. Such development can, to a great extent, be achieved only through establishing effective communication channels for the transfer of knowledge, skills and information as well as for motivation and preparation of the people to accept and adapt new and improved techniques and methodologies in their day-to-day life. The Development Communication Unit, (DCU) an integral component of LWS India's development strategy lays stress on establishing effective means of communication for transferring the benefits of development to the people.

The year witnessed DCU organising a series of internal meetings and workshops involving all members of their team. On these occasions, when PREM Cell members were also sometimes present, the team attempted to assess and evaluate the role and functioning of the Unit. These efforts helped increase conceptual clarity regarding the role of communication in the development process, DCU's function as facilitators of this process, as well as helped to identify areas of weakness in the operational methodology.

Consequently the major thrust was on planning, designing and development of appropriate communication material for different project areas. The DCU made efforts to strengthen, streamline and structure the process of dialogue with field personnel from different LWS India projects and assisted groups and communities. As a result, the concept of an Information Bank emerged. The Bank envisages a library that subscribes to books,

journals and periodicals dealing with development issues and concepts, a photo archive with photographs and slides of LWS India activities as well as a directory of names and addresses of resource organisations. The information thus collected will be collated, sorted and stored systematically for the benefit of the project personnel as well as the assisted groups. Publication of important items of informtion in the form of booklets is also envisaged. The Information Bank is also endeavouring to collect appropriate communication and educational aids for use in project areas.

The non-formal education (NFE) process, besides imparting literacy to the people helps to increase their functional skills as well as awareness about the dynamics of socio-economic development. NFE promotes the concept of self-reliance through self-help, touches all pertinent aspects of the people's daily lives and thus prepares them to participate in the process of development. DCU has attempted to infuse a new dynamism into the NFE process to make it more effective and need-based as well as to broaden its scope. Primers and charts used in the NFE process are being redesigned keeping in mind the specific needs of each project area and community.

Since NFE is a continuous process, efforts have been made to support the users to consolidate the skills they have gained as well as to provide them access to further information and knowledge relevant to their daily lives. With this aim in mind several rural libraries have been promoted. Nearly 40 types of books were procured from various organisations engaged in NFE activities and distributed to the rural libraries managed by the user groups.

The NFE teachers, normally literate young volunteers from the villages play a crucial role in the affairs of the community. As teachers they command the respect of the community and often the community looks up to the teachers for advice and guidance. Hence it has been considered very necessary to help the teachers to improve their knowledge and strengthen their teaching and motivational skills.

*Puppetry remains an effective means of communication.*

The nonformal teachers refresher course organised in Project WHAT, Bandwan is one such where apart from the teachers, community leaders, representatives from community organisations and other interested members from the community participated. During the course, efforts were made to identify, define and strengthen the role of NFE centres in village development activities. In addition, three workshops were conducted for project personnel from Calcutta, On-site Improvement and Murshidabad Projects and Project WHAT. These workshops helped to re-define the role of nonformal education and evolve strategies for effective monitoring.

Trainings workshops and seminars (TWS) were organised to develop the managerial skills, knowledge and attitude of the project personnel and the user groups. Need-based training programmes were organised at institutions as well as in the field programmes with resource personnel from LWS India and from other agencies. Staff members were sent to external training institutions like Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ramakrishna Mission and Centre for Communication and Cultural Action, among others, for training in different skills. However, majority of the training programmes during 1987, were held in the project areas. Several training programmes were also organised for the assisted population. Special emphasis was laid on the training of women. Vocational training on soap and detergent, candle and incense stick making were arranged in Project WHAT and seven women from Burdwan project were trained in improved methods of sal-leaf-plate making.

Drama is a powerful medium in people's lives and has been used successfully to organise and moti-

vate them for socio-economic upliftment. After successfully field testing the idea of inter-programme drama competitions in 1985-86, these were organised again in 1987. The competitions were divided into two sectors-urban and rural. In the preliminary rounds of the competition, altogether 47 drama teams from all the project areas participated. These dramas were written, directed and enacted by the youth groups. Most of the plays highlighted social and economic problems facing communities. Nine teams (5 rural and 4 urban) came to compete in the finals held at Calcutta in April and May, 1987 respectively. The competition at its various stages drew nearly 50,000 spectators.

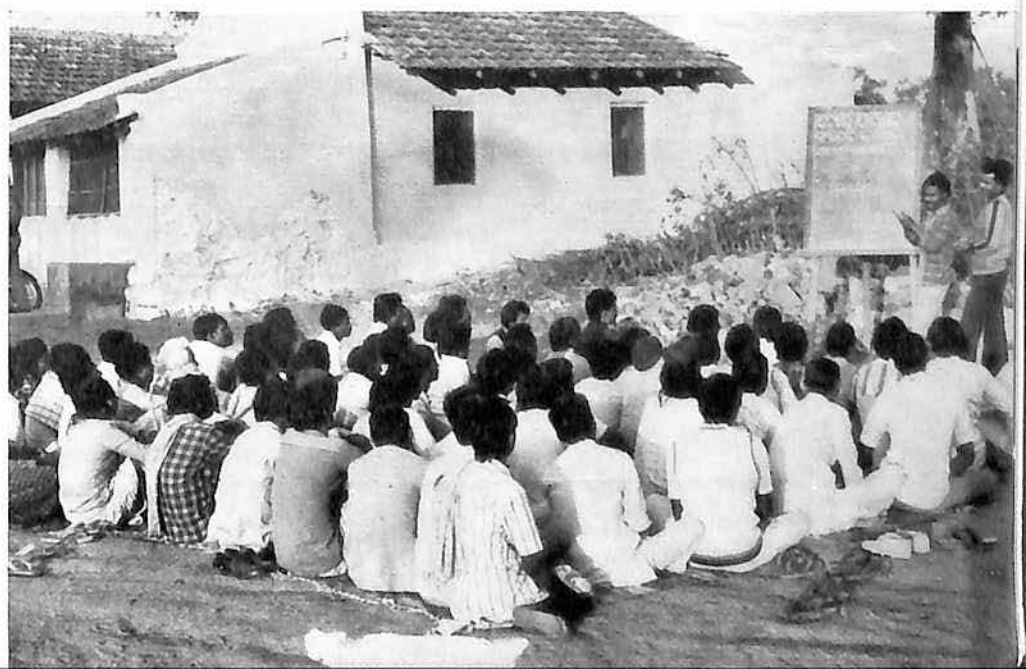
The video unit stressed on preparation of more instructional films with a view to strengthen people's existing skills as well as to build up new ones. The team, during the period under review, shot films on papad, candle, soap and detergent and incense-stick making. 'To those in Need' a video documentation on the activities of LWS India was updated. The video unit also made a film on Emergency Activities of LWS India and another on 'Pre & Post-natal Care' for training Traditional Birth Attendants, in collaboration with the Emergency and Rehabilitation and Community Health Service Units respectively.

Copies of video films produced by LWS were given to Action for Food Production (AFPRO), Satya Sai Seva Samity and other voluntary organisations on request. Copies of two Santhali language programmes namely 'SUMI' and 'BULUNG DA' were handed over to the Most Rev. M. M. Tudu, Moderator, NELC, for use in church's development activities. This year, three video films were accorded censor certificates from the Film Censor Board of the Government of India.

The supportive media team (SMT) utilizes traditional media such as role play, puppetry, drama and mime to increase awareness and help people to identify needs, problems and solutions. Subjects like health, community organisations, better agriculture practices and social problems represent the major themes for puppet plays, dramas, role plays and mime shows. Youth groups have been organised in villages all over the programme area. During the year, the SMT visited project areas regularly to organise new youth groups, to support and strengthen the existing ones who have undertaken the task of educating their communities through dramas, role plays and mime shows. The team played a vital role in organizing the inter-programme drama competition. The team also participated in an exhibition and cultural programme at Gurukul Theological College, Madras, on the occasion of their diamond jubilee celebrations in November, 1987. The exhibition, slide and video shows and puppet plays by the team were highly appreciated by the spectators. In addition to its normal activities, the team is also actively involved in the preparation of slides on LWS India programme activities.

'Alo', a trilingual (Bengali, Oriya and Santhali) quarterly journal for the neo-literates, provides continuing educational support to the user groups by publishing informative articles on various subjects relevant to their lives. In recent years, an increasing number of neo-literates has been using the journal as a forum to share its views, ideas and experiences. "Partnership in Progress" a bi-annual English journal focusses on developmental issues, carries highly informative articles by development workers from all over India including LWS India personnel. DCU also publishes the LWS India in-house monthly newsletter. This newsletter provides the staff an opportunity to interact and keep abreast of the events within the organisation. Apart from sections for entertainment, the newsletter also carries information on agriculture and health practices as well as development related issues.

*Training programme to improve technical know-how.*



**TABLE—1**

| Item | Number Organised | Details of Participation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Staff | | People | | |
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Total |
| Training | 13 | 42 | 16 | 225 | 84 | 267 |
| Workshop | 3 | 47 | 100 | — | — | 47 |
| Total | 16 | 89 | 28 | 225 | 72 | 314 |

**TABLE—1.1**

| Training | Number Arranged | Participants | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Staff | People | Total |
| NFE Teachers | 1 | 7 | 46 | 53 |
| Montessori Teachers | 1 | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| Incense stick, detergent & candle making | 1 | – | 55 | 55 |
| Development motivation & youth leadership | 1 | 15 | 4 | 19 |
| Organising day care centre for pre-school children | 1 | 2 | 17 | 19 |
| Pisciculture | 1 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| Poultry management | 1 | – | 4 | 4 |
| Accounting of village revolving fund | 2 | 11 | 60 | 71 |
| Project planning | 1 | 2 | – | 2 |
| Improved sal leafplate making | 1 | – | 7 | 7 |
| National Physical Fitness Programme | 1 | – | 11 | 11 |
| Total | 12 | 41 | 225 | 264 |

**TABLE—1.2**

| Workshop | Number Arranged | Staff |
|---|---|---|
| Non-Formal Education | 3 | 47 |

**TABLE—2**

**NON FORMAL EDUCATION**

| Programme Area | Number of Centres | Students |
|---|---|---|
| Calcutta | 19 | 381 |
| On-Site | 4 | 110 |
| Burdwan | 29 | 486 |
| Murshidabad | 20 | 326 |
| WHAT | 58 | 993 |
| Kultali | 17 | 277 |

# COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

Health services is an important component of the integrated development activities undertaken by LWS India among the most underprivileged communities in rural and urban areas. Impoverished economic conditions, absence of basic civic amenities, ignorance and superstition as well as inadequacy of organised health care facilities have led to widespread malnutrition and high incidence of communicable diseases. The Community Health Services of LWS India guided by the WHO strategy for Primary Health Care, lays stress on preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of health care. A primary health care system planned as well as managed by the communities has been envisaged as the ultimate goal. The health programme has two facets which are intimately linked with each other—Health Care and Health Education.

*Training of Dais (traditional birth attendants) has been emphasised.*

Apart from general health care services, LWS's community health programme lays special emphasis on maternal and child health services, as children and women are the most vulnerable sections in the existing socio-economic structure. Children of a community are its most important asset, as on them depends the community's future. The women also play a vital role, as bearing and rearing of children is primarily their responsibility, as is that of providing a nutritive diet to the whole family within the restricted family budget and also the keeping of the home and its immediate environs clean.

The care of children under 6 years of age includes prevention of malnutrition, encouraging the use of colostrum and breast feeding, growth monitoring, instilling proper weaning practices, prevention of night blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency, immunization and promoting Oral Rehydration Therapy. Maternal care is undertaken through ante-natal care from the early stages of pregnancy, assistance during the natal period, proper post-natal care for recovery and encouraging adoption of scientific measures in family planning.

The general services include control of communicable diseases which are prevalent in the project areas, promotion of environmental sanitation, cure of common ailments and use of referral services. Pollution of water is the most immediate cause of diseases. While other sectors of development see to the creation of safe drinking water sources, the health programme addresses the problem of safe drinking water by educating the people in proper procurement, storage and use of water. To help people in their efforts to overcome the problems associated with contaminated and unclean water a low cost water filter has been developed in one of the project areas.

Disposal of waste, including human waste, which is an important step in environmental cleanliness, has not made as much progress as is necessary. Efforts are being made to induce people to use latrines as well as adopt safe measures for disposal of other wastes. Malaria, once thought to have been eradicated under the National Malaria Control Programme, has come back and is a serious problem in the Purulia sector of Project WHAT.

Health Education is imparted through meetings and training courses. Health Education is undertaken at the project level by family meetings through routine home visits, regular group meetings and occasional mass meetings to spread health consciousness. Use of audio-visual media such as posters, flip-charts, slide-shows and video cassettes during the course of the meetings has strengthened the educative process and increased the acceptability of the messages. One of the major areas of change this

*Trained 'Dais' are better equipped to deal with health problems.*

year related to organising training programmes. The central Community Health Services Department conducted nearly all the trainings in the project areas, as it has been experienced that on-site training is preferable at the initial stages to institutional training which can be more profitably absorbed after the initial exposure.

Short 3-day orientation and exposure courses were undertaken for the opinion leaders, women and youth groups to enhance acceptance of the concept of community health. It was stressed at these training programmes that community health was not just the business of doctors, nurses or hospitals. Better health was highlighted as a community responsibility, in which the community played the major role by adopting certain basic practices as well as avoiding the unhealthy ones. All the 15 courses conducted during the year attempted to change people's perceptions of their own health problems and needs.

Traditional practitioners of health in the community were identified to upgrade and strengthen their skills for the benefit of the community. Foremost among these are the birth attendants, popularly known as 'DAIS' in India. These ladies assist in childbirth in the rural areas and occasionally in urban areas as well. Their methods are based on outdated skills, knowledge and superstitious practices inherited from their mothers or grandmothers. Their unscientific methods and improper techniques often lead to morbidity and mortality. Yet, these elderly illiterate women are well known figures in rural life and play an important role in the lives of rural women exerting considerable influence. They are counsellors to village women during pregnancy, illness and in times of domestic difficulties. Five training courses of 8-day duration each were held in the programme areas for such women.

A video cassette developed with the aid of Development Communication Unit on childbirth, colourful posters in the local language, plastic and wooden models were used in the trainings. The training programmes attempted to create the conditions for safe childbirth by strengthening the skills and upgrading the knowledge of these practitioners and effecting attitudinal changes in them.

A change in the attitude of these women is expected to have a positive impact on the health of the community's women and children. Acceptance of the new concepts of health by these traditional practitioners will tremendously influence the community's own attitude towards health related problems. The traditional birth attendants who have been trained, were provided with kits containing simple medical instruments which would enable them to conduct a more hygienic child delivery.

All newly recruited health personnel underwent orientation courses at the central level before being assigned to field projects. Experience in the field over the years pointed to the need for such courses. Courses of instruction designed for these personnel reflected LWS India's experience in the field of health work in urban slums and remote villages.

Immunization of mothers and children is one of the most important component of the package of health services extended by LWS India. April 7, 1987, declared World Health Day by the World Health Organisation, provided us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the course of universal immunization. The core health staff underwent four-day refresher courses dealing with all aspects of immunization. Three such training programmes on immunization conducted during the year helped to strengthen their concepts and skills. Subsequent to the training, the trainees visited each other's areas of work and discussed mutual problems to gain deeper insight.

These training programmes, the use of proper cold chain equipments such as vaccine carriers as well as streamlining of the vaccine procurement system has strengthened the immunization programme.

Since the aim of the project is to eventually hand over responsibility for community health care to the representatives of the local communities, selection of these representatives by the community is in progress in some areas. Three such community volunteers, all ladies, from one of the projects, participated in a 40-day course on concepts and practices of community health, organised by the West Bengal Voluntary Health Association.

To provide the health staff and the community with continuous professional guidance, and thus to lend greater credibility to the programme, doctors trained in community health service were inducted into the programme. They are also expected to strengthen liaison with the government and other agencies, which take referral cases.

A blood donation programme was organised in one of the urban projects. LWS India provided the infrastructure for a research study by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, a Govt. of India research institute, on "Meningococcal Carriage in Pre-School and School-children of an urban slum in Calcutta".

The base-line data received from the community health survey undertaken during the year in the different programme areas provide indicators to the health status of the communities in the respective areas. These will be useful in evolving strategies to make health care more effective. A new information flow system designed to strengthen the planning, monitoring and evaluation process was tested and found to be effective.

*Health education through regular interaction .....*

The central Community Health Services Department also assisted the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit in organising emergency medical programmes in two flood affected North Bengal districts this year.

LWS India Health Services have maintained close liaison with government and private agencies doing similar or parallel work. The Central and State Government Health Agencies, such as those dealing with immunization and family planning continue to provide the LWS India health projects with regular supplies of vaccines, contraceptive aids, vitamins and nutritional supplements.

LWS India was a co-sponsor and participant in a three-day "Health Convention" organised by the West Bengal Voluntary Health Association.

Child-in-Need Institute, a voluntary organisation, as also the Voluntary Health Association of India. another such agency and UNICEF have supplied health education aids. Voluntary and government agencies also supplied resource personnel for conducting some of the training programmes.

*..... and audio visual aids.*

## HEALTH EDUCATION

| ACTIVITIES | PROGRAMME AREAS | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | CALCUTTA | MURSHIDABAD | BURDWAN | WHAT | KULTALI | ON-SITE | TOTAL |
| Family Meetings | 3072 | 2302 | 1336 | 3195 | 475 | 1511 | 11891 |
| Group Meetings | 461 | 256 | 98 | 369 | 69 | 166 | 1419 |
| Mass Meetings | 69 | 32 | 12 | 84 | 6 | 30 | 233 |

Educating people to change their health related attitude and behaviour in order to prevent diseases and to maintain better health continues to be the focal point of the community health programme. Health education for developing consciousness on health matters was undertaken through family meetings, group meetings and mass meetings. Family visits were given importance to enhance the interpersonal communication to identify individual family health problems and help the families to accept possible preventive and promotive health measures.

## NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF UNDER SIX (in percentage)

| AREA | MALNUTRITION GRADE II and III |
|---|---|
| **URBAN** | |
| Calcutta | 21 |
| On-Site | 34 |
| **RURAL** | |
| Murshidabad | 30 |
| Kultali | 18 |
| Burdwan | 41 |
| WHAT | 25 |

Regular weighing for growth monitoring has helped mothers to detect impending malnutrition in children and initiate necessary preventive measures.

## IMMUNIZATION (in percentage)

| AREA | DPT 3rd Dose | POLIO 3rd Dose | BCG | MEASLES | DT 2nd Dose |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **URBAN** | | | | | |
| Calcutta | 39 | 47 | 8 | 3 | 29 |
| On-Site | 76 | 76 | 3 | 3 | 11 |
| **RURAL** | | | | | |
| Murshidabad | 48 | 4 | 0.1 | 3 | 15 |
| Burdwan | 34 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0.5 |
| Kultali | 12 | 11 | 21 | 12 | |
| WHAT | 32 | 16 | 1 | 0.2 | 22 |

Immunization of children is one of the most important components of the package of health services extended by LWS India. Poor communication, non availability of vaccines and difficulties in maintaining proper cold chain has been a major cause for lower immunization coverage in the rural areas. In order to strengthen the immunization programme, training on the proper use of cold chain equipment such as vaccine carriers as well as streamlining of the vaccine procurement system has been undertaken.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING

| AREA | Target Groups | | | Staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Orientation for Community Leaders, Women and Youth | Traditional Birth Attendants | Community Health Volunteers | Health Workers |
| CALCUTTA | 139 | — | — | 9 |
| MURSHIDABAD | 17 | 13 | 3 | 7 |
| BURDWAN | 30 | 11 | — | 4 |
| WHAT | 104 | 18 | — | 12 |
| KULTALI | 20 | 11 | — | 4 |
| ON-SITE | 23 | — | — | 4 |
| Total | 333 | 53 | 3 | 40 |

In order to equip the primary health workers as well as to motivate them to fulfil their role as important community resources, LWS adopted a strategy of intensive training. Community leaders,women and youth were exposed to the concept and practices of community health to elicit their participation for developing an effective health care system. Traditional birth attendants, who assist at the time of childbirth, in the rural areas, have been trained to upgrade and strengthen their skills. Acceptance of the new concepts of community health by these traditional practitioners will increase the effectiveness of the MCH services in the rural areas.

## CURATIVE SERVICES

| AREA | Number of Cases Treated | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 years and above | | Under Six | | |
| | Men & Women | Percent | Boys & Girls | Percent | Total |
| CALCUTTA | 6218 | 61 | 4012 | 39 | 10230 |
| ON-SITE | 1126 | 55 | 926 | 45 | 2052 |
| KULTALI | 908 | 67 | 446 | 33 | 1354 |
| MURSHIDABAD | 1405 | 73 | 518 | 27 | 1923 |
| BURDWAN | 674 | 57 | 515 | 43 | 1189 |
| WHAT | 2765 | 72 | 1073 | 28 | 3838 |
| Total | 13096 | 64 | 7490 | 36 | 20586 |

The table indicates the number of patients who received curative services as part of our health programme. Compared to the previous years the number of cases has increased on account of expansion of the operational areas. Analysis however reveals that there has been a decline in the total number of curative cases in proportion to the population served.

# EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION

Droughts and floods which have become a recurring feature in certain parts of the country were more widespread during '87 than in earlier years. While major parts of north, west and south India reeled under extreme drought conditions, the eastern region, particularly West Bengal, witnessed unprecedented floods. Government of India declared '87 a 'severe drought' year and mobilized resources to assist the affected states to combat the effects of drought. Along with other national and international agencies, LWS, too, participated in this national effort.

The State Government of Orissa requested LWS India to undertake drought relief operations in the severely affected districts of Kalahandi and Koraput. Nutrition programme, special medical programme for children and labour intensive construction projects for the benefit of the landless, marginal and small farmers were initiated on a large scale in four community development blocks of Kalahandi and one block of Koraput district.

The nutrition programme, spread over three months benefited approximately 4655 people a day. Thirty one minor irrigation projects, such as large reservoirs, tanks and embankments, undertaken during the year are nearing completion. These projects, under the food-for-work programme, have during the reporting period, generated 1,15,000 mandays of gainful employment. Clothes and blankets distribution was still in progress at the end of the year and had benefited 11,000 people.

The Drilling Division of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit sank 83 tubewells to provide safe drinking water to the drought affected people of Kalahandi district. Government of Orissa participated in this programme by bearing 50 percent of the cost.

While Orissa faced acute drought conditions, devastating floods struck six districts of West Bengal. Malda and West Dinajpur, the worst affected districts, witnessed awesome floods as never before experienced in the last 50 years. The swirling waters swept away hundreds and thousands of houses and took a heavy toll of human lives, cattle as well as crops. Flood stricken people sought refuge on high grounds, embankments, national highways and public institutions.

Government of West Bengal organised thousands of relief camps to alleviate the sufferings of the flood victims. LWS India on request of the State Government undertook massive relief operations in the districts of Cooch Behar, West Dinajpur and Malda in the northern part of the State. Relief activities which lasted more than three months included distribution of dry rations, wheat flour, clothes, polythene sheets and nutrition programme as well as a few food-for-work projects. Approximately 9,66,000 people were benefited.

While these operations were in progress in North Bengal, there was a flash flood in Howrah district, neighbouring Calcutta. LWS responded by undertaking emergency relief operations in some of the affected areas.

As a follow up to the emergency operations the E & R Unit plans to undertake restoration projects in Malda and West Dinajpur. This will include material assistance to needy families to rebuild flood damaged houses, reconstruction of school buildings and sinking drinking water tubewells.

The housing programme undertaken in the East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, subsequent to flood relief operations in '86, is nearing completion. Permanent—brick and reinforced cement concrete-houses consisting of two rooms and a verandah, are being built for 900 families. Similarly, the restoration programme which includes construction of schools and sinking tubewells, initiated in '85-86 after floods and cyclone in Howrah and North and South 24-Parganas districts of West Bengal is continuing.

**Note: Details of Emergency & Rehabilitation activities appear in a separate report.**

# FINANCIAL

# SUMMARY

During '87, LWS India continued its efforts to implement projects in accordance with the original planning as per Statement of Needs, yet retaining the flexibility necessary to react to the changing needs and aspirations of the assisted population. This, together with emphasis on optimum utilization of resources and careful monitoring of plan performances resulted in the utilization of 96 percent of available funds.

The system of regular field visits by the finance personnel from central office and monthly visits by field accountants to Central Finance Office assured excellent communication and closer monitoring of resource utilization. The field offices were assisted to achieve better results especially in control and management of material and financial resources.

As in other years the auditors, M/s. Price Waterhouse extended commendable support, also in 1987.

Central Finance Office, in collaboration with DCU, organised trainings for village committee members, managers and book keepers of village revolving funds. These training programmes, apart from imparting basic accounting skills to the village functionaries, helped to introduce the concepts of better resource management among village organisations.

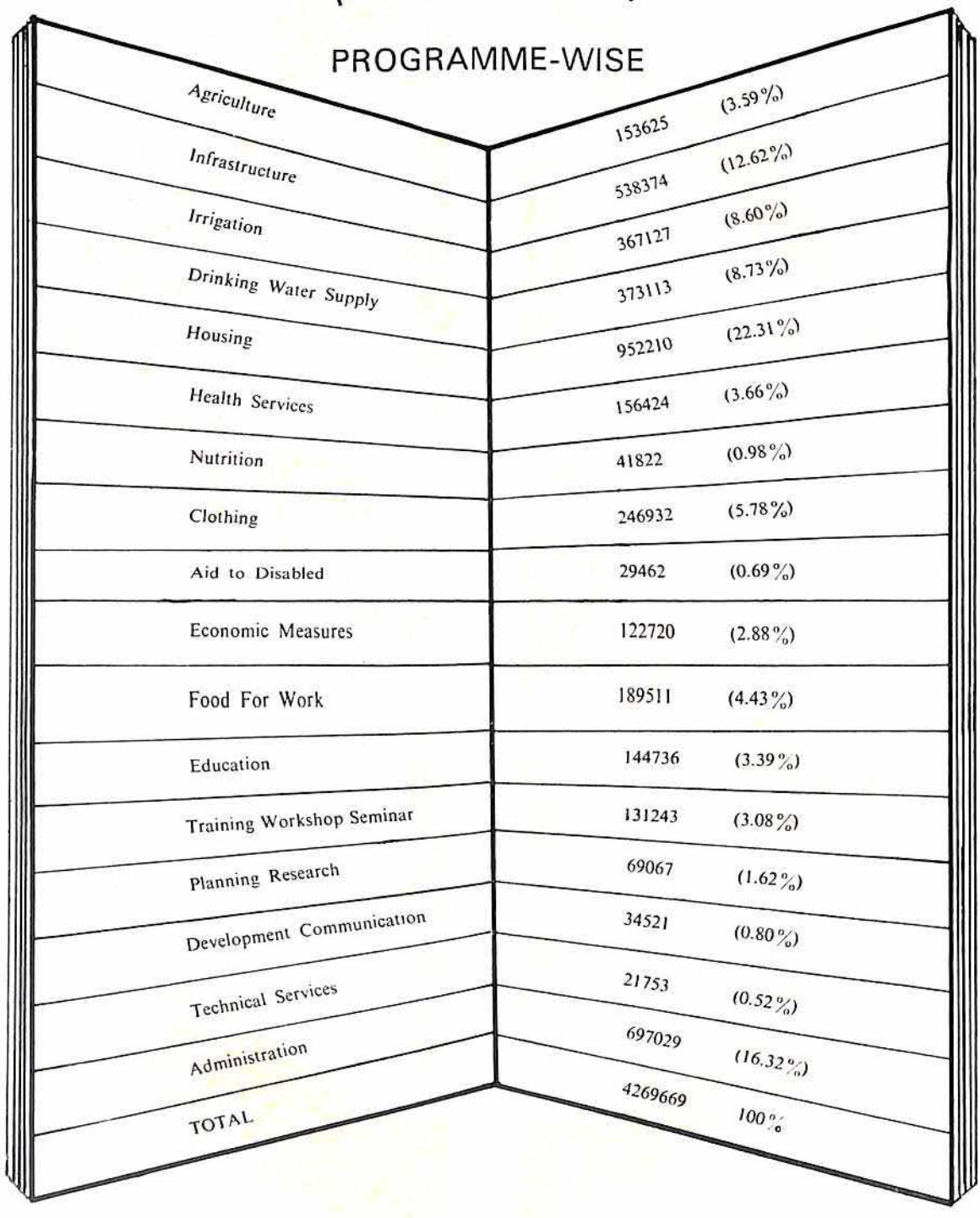
**LWS INDIA PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.87**

| **Expense Category** | US $ |
|---|---|
| Central Offices | 480,658 |
| Project WHAT | 789,041 |
| Burdwan Projects | 124,323 |
| Calcutta Projects | 326,742 |
| Murshidabad Projects | 222,669 |
| Kultali Projects | 146,150 |
| On-Site Improvement | 101,005 |
| Birbhum Projects | 22,895 |
| Bankura Projects | 2,101 |
| Emergency Operations | 2,024,623 |
| Other areas | 29,462 |
| | 4,269,669 |
| **Total Resources Administered** | |
| LWS Fund | 4,267,568 |
| LWS Material | 284,714 |
| Local Participation | 162,748 |
| | 4,715,030 |

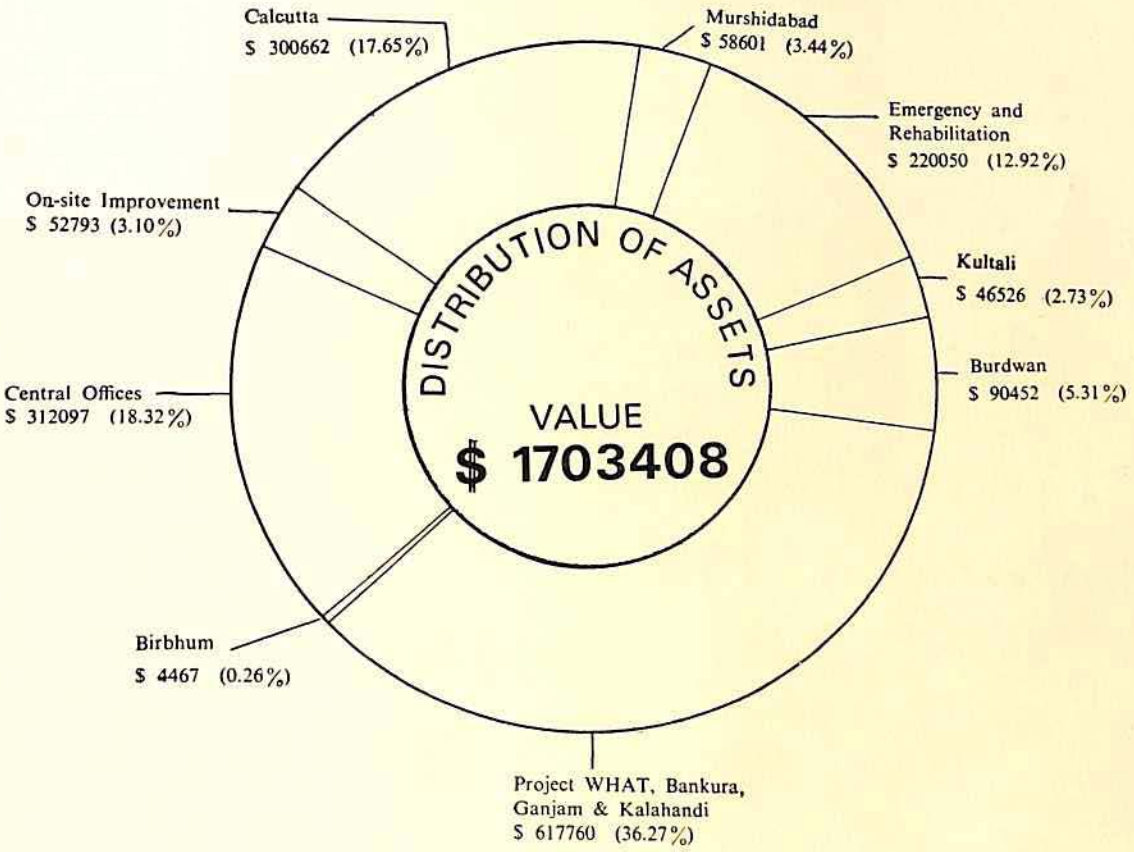
**Note:** Details of resources administered for 1987 Emergency Operations totalling US $ 2,276,631 are shown in the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit's Annual Report.

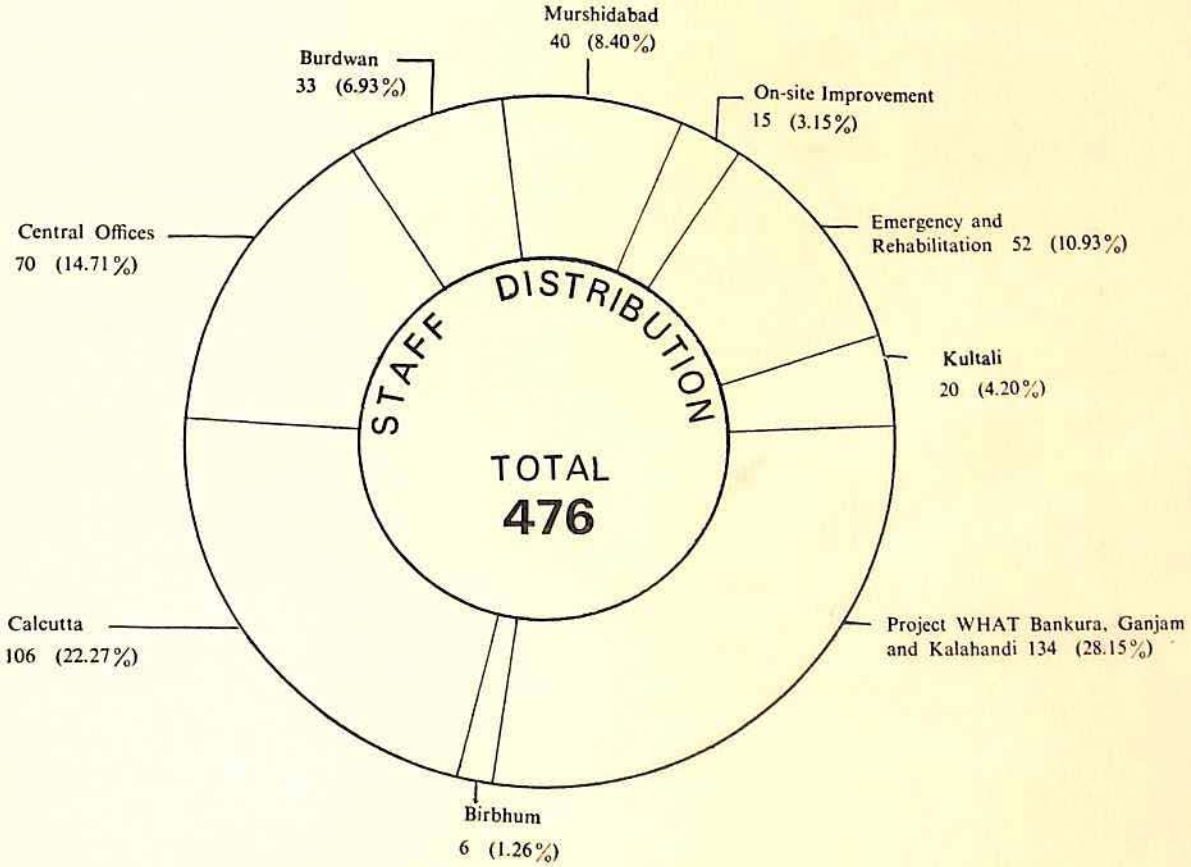
# FUND UTILIZATION

## PROGRAMME-WISE



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 153625 | (3.59%) |
| Infrastructure | 538374 | (12.62%) |
| Irrigation | 367127 | (8.60%) |
| Drinking Water Supply | 373113 | (8.73%) |
| Housing | 952210 | (22.31%) |
| Health Services | 156424 | (3.66%) |
| Nutrition | 41822 | (0.98%) |
| Clothing | 246932 | (5.78%) |
| Aid to Disabled | 29462 | (0.69%) |
| Economic Measures | 122720 | (2.88%) |
| Food For Work | 189511 | (4.43%) |
| Education | 144736 | (3.39%) |
| Training Workshop Seminar | 131243 | (3.08%) |
| Planning Research | 69067 | (1.62%) |
| Development Communication | 34521 | (0.80%) |
| Technical Services | 21753 | (0.52%) |
| Administration | 697029 | (16.32%) |
| TOTAL | 4269669 | 100% |


DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS
VALUE
$ 1703408
Calcutta
$ 300662 (17.65%)
Murshidabad
$ 58601 (3.44%)
Emergency and
Rehabilitation
$ 220050 (12.92%)
On-site Improvement
$ 52793 (3.10%)
Kultali
$ 46526 (2.73%)
Burdwan
$ 90452 (5.31%)
Central Offices
$ 312097 (18.32%)
Birbhum
$ 4467 (0.26%)
Project WHAT, Bankura,
Ganjam & Kalahandi
$ 617760 (36.27%)


STAFF DISTRIBUTION
TOTAL
476
Murshidabad
40 (8.40%)
Burdwan
33 (6.93%)
On-site Improvement
15 (3.15%)
Central Offices
70 (14.71%)
Emergency and
Rehabilitation 52 (10.93%)
Kultali
20 (4.20%)
Calcutta
106 (22.27%)
Project WHAT Bankura, Ganjam
and Kalahandi 134 (28.15%)
Birbhum
6 (1.26%)

## THE EXECUTIVE

**Central Office**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Director | — | Aage Larsen ( upto 19.6.87 ) |
| | — | Erling Nielsen |
| Deputy Director | — | G. S. Banerjee |
| Programme Secretary | — | Neville Pradhan |
| Finance Adviser | — | C. Minderhoud |
| Chief Accountant | — | D. Roychoudhury |
| Emergency Officer | — | P. C. Joseph |

**Sectoral Offices**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Development Communication | — | Neville Pradhan, *Programme Coordinator* |
| Engineering & Technical Services | — | T. Chakraborty, *Technical Adviser* |
| Community Health Services | — | R. K. Das, *Programme Coordinator* |

**Programme Offices**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Water, Health & Agriculture Trident (WHAT) | — | B. B. Choudhuri, *Programme Coordinator* |
| Burdwan | — | D. K. Kar, *Programme Coordinator* |
| Calcutta | — | G. S. Banerjee, *Programme Coordinator* |
| On-Site Improvement | — | S. K. Palchoudhury, *Programme Coordinator* |
| Murshidabad | — | P. K. Chakraborty, *Programme Coordinator* |
| Kultali | — | D. Roychoudhury, *Programme Coordinator* |
| Birbhum | — | Neville Pradhan, *Programme Coordinator* |

The following senior staff either retired or left the organisation during 1987:-

B. N. Poddar
B. K. Ghosh
K. Roy
T. K. Ray

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